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# THE FAIRY CABINET.



Mis Alie Faiator from her affectionate Gather, Sect. 25: 1844



## FAIRY CABINET:

CONTAINING

## FAIRY TALES,

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH AND GERMAN.

#### BOSTON:

T. H. CARTER AND COMPANY,

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### Preface.

THE "Cabinet des Fees," an old French work from which the following Stories have principally been taken, is a large collection of Fairy Lore, filling more than thirty volumes. The Fairy Tales commonly met with, are, for the most part, to be found in that work.

In making up this volume, care has been taken to select such as were supposed never to have been published in English, and such as were most adapted to the amusement of the young. As the French collection above named is not a common book, it is probably not accessible to many American readers, and it has been thought that a selection from it might not be an unacceptable present to the juvenile part of the community. Some Fairy Tales from the German have been added to give more variety to the work.

Boston, November, 1844.

### STREET, SALE

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### FAIRY STORIES.

#### MIGNIONETTE.

There was once a King and Queen who were very honest people and governed their subjects as well as they could. But instead of depending upon their own judgment and that of their council and legislature, if indeed they had these conveniences, they were constantly consulting a neighboring Fairy, and had placed themselves altogether in her power. It was the fashion of their age, so that they were not so much to blame for it. The worst of the matter was, that Fairy Grumbla, for that was her name, was a person of a very disagreeable temper. She was always grumbling and muttering between her teeth, and if she did a person a kindness, it was in such a disagreeable way as to make him or her feel very uncomfortable.

The King and the Queen had fourteen children, and Grumbla never came to see them without scolding at the noise they made, and complaining that they filled up the nursery so that she could not find room to walk about in it with her high-heeled shoes, her hooped petticoat, and her satin and vel-

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vet train nine yards long. But still she came to the palace every day, and seemed to feel that it was her business to see that the children were properly brought up and provided for. The poor King and Queen, though the most humble and gentle people in the world, very often wished that madam Grumbla would find some other family to take care of, but they did not dare to tell her so.

The simplicity of courts at that early period of the world was very great. The king's children played every day with the neighboring boys and girls, which was not surprising, as they all went to the same school.

Near the palace there lived quietly, in his little cottage, a very good Coalman; the coal he sold supported him; all his neighbors respected him because he was the most honest person in the world. The King himself had great confidence in his capacity, and consulted him on affairs of state. He was called Coalman for shortness, and for two leagues round no one would use any charcoal except his. He carried it to all the great lords' and fairies' houses, and he was every where kindly received, sothat the little children were not afraid of him, and they did not say of him, "Be good, here is the Coalman come to take you away." When he had finished his day's work he came home to his little cottage to enjoy his rest and freedom, for he was his own master. His wife had been dead for a long time, and he had no family but one little daughter,

named Mignionette, whom he loved very dearly. She was very pretty, though she lived in a smoky cottage, and though she was dressed in very coarse clothes she was always neat and clean, and graceful and active in her movements.

The youngest child of the King and Queen, little Larkie, was as lively as he was pretty, he was always looking for Mignionette, and preferred her for a playmate to all the other little children, so that they were always seen together. The Coalman meantime found himself growing old, and he was very uneasy about what would become of Mignionette if he was to die. The King's kindness to him did not offer him any resource; he thought within himself, the good King is overcome with the cares of his own large family, and he has so many things to ask of Madam Grumbla, and this Madam Grumbla is so difficult to get along with, that he would never dare to say a word to her about my daughter; and even if he were to promise to do it, I should be afraid to trust him, and the Coalman's reflections always ended by his saying, "The King is much more to be pitied than I am."

But the more Coalman thought of his affairs, the more difficult he found it to decide what he had better do. He went visiting round at all the houses in the neighborhood, but he was more than any where kindly received at that of a benevolent Fairy named Burned Almond. She it was who gave the name to a well known species of confectionary, for

it was her own invention. This good Fairy perceived the Coalman one day in the court of her castle. She asked him several questions, which he answered her in a manner which pleased her. The uneasiness he felt for the fate of Mignionette, affected her so much that she resolved to take care of her. She directed him to bring her the little girl the next Monday. The good man was at the same time charmed with having found so good an establishment for his daughter, and grieved at being obliged to part with her. He however complied with the request of the Fairy. He dressed his daughter in white linen and neat clothes, and bade her put on her new shoes he had bought her the day before.

Mignionette jumped about him, ran forward, then came back to take his hand, saying repeatedly, "we are going to the castle, we are going to the castle," for that was all the Coalman had told her about their journey. Burned Almond received them very kindly, but notwithstanding all the beauties of the castle, and all the sugar and sweetmeats she received, Mignionette did not wish to leave her dear papa, and when he was gone she wept for the first time in her life. Every body who saw the parting, said, "my little girl would not have done so much for me." Her good feeling pleased the Fairy, who loved her the more for it.

But at last little Mignionette dried up her tears, and by paying great attention to the teachings of

the Fairy, who never scolded her and never had to tell her the same thing twice, she soon became one of the best little girls in the world. She always ran with open arms to embrace her papa, as soon as she saw him at a distance. After having embraced her father she always inquired of him about Larkie, and gave him her prettiest toys and best sugar plums to carry him. The Coalman acquitted himself of his commission, and the little prince on his side always asked about Mignionette, and said he wanted very much to see her again. Mignionette, whom the Fairy loved more and more every day, had now arrived at the age of twelve years, when Burned Almond desired the Coalman one day to come up into her cabinet. She was so good that she would never allow any one to stand while talking to her, and he at first was unwilling to sit down-it is true it was somewhat singular to see the Coalman in a white embroidered satin chair.

When he was seated the Fairy said to him, "my good man, I love your daughter." "Madam, that is very kind of you," said he, "but you have great reason, she is so good and pretty." "And I wish," resumed the good Burned Almond, "to consult you on what I shall do with her. You know, or you do not know," continued she, "that I shall soon be obliged to go and live in another country." "Oh well, madam," said the Coalman, "you can take her with you, if you will be so kind." "That is what I cannot do," replied the Fairy, "but I can

establish her well, let us see what you wish for her." "Well, madam," replied the Coalman, "make her queen of a little kingdom, if you please."

The Fairy, surprised at this proposition, told him that the higher was the station the more trouble people had. The Coalman assured her that he had always heard that there were inconveniences every where, and that those of royalty had at least more consolation. "It is not," added he, "that I ask you to make me a King, I indeed prefer to be a Coalman, it is a trade I understand, and perhaps I should not be able to practice the other. But Mignionette is young, it will not be difficult for her to learn what I propose, I know pretty well how it is done, for I see it every day."

"We will see," said the Fairy, as he took his leave, "what I can do, but I warn you beforehand she will have a great deal to suffer." "Very well, madam, I have suffered and have not gained much, be only so kind as to make her a Queen, this is all I ask of you," added he, as he departed.

During this time Madam Grumbla had established almost all the children of the King and Queen. She had sent some to seek their fortune, and they had found kingdoms, the princesses had been well married, without their adventures having been exactly known. The youngest of the fourteen, little Larkie, was the only one for whom she had done nothing. One day she arrived at the court of the King and Queen in her usual scolding humor, and

finding the little prince whom his father and mother were caressing, she said to them, "Here is a spoiled child, this is the way to do something, I will bet every thing in the world that he knows nothing at all."

"Come," said she, addressing the young prince, "say your lessons to me this minute, and if you miss a word I will whip you." Larkie said his lessons wonderfully well, because he had them all at his fingers' ends, he even added some remarks which were surprising for his age. The King and Queen dared not show their joy at this, for fear of increasing the ill humor of Madam Grumbla, who kept repeating, "the lessons you have given him are good for nothing, they are too learned and too deep for a child." Then turning towards the King and Queen she said, "but why have you not asked me for something for him. This is the way you all do, you make me establish your blockheads of children, who will make the silliest Kings in the world, and because this one is good for something you wish to take your own ease in spoiling him, for I see clearly he is your darling. But I declare to you, it shall not be so, for I choose to make him set out immediately," continued she, "it would be murderous to leave him any longer with you, and I will not have that to reproach myself with. Every body knows that you are my friends, and I will not bear to have stones thrown at me for a foolish fancy of yours. Ah, do not make any faces, we will see

what can be done, for I have no objection to taking advice."

The King and Queen replied gently that it was for her to decide, and that they had no will of their own. "Well then," said Madam Grumbla, "he must travel." "That is easily said," replied the King and Queen at the same time, "but condescend to think," continued the latter, "that our other children have exhausted our treasury, and that not being able to allow him to travel according to his rank, you see how unpleasant it would be to us, if he should say all along the road while he was traveling in a mean style, 'I am the son of the King and Queen.'"

"Ah how vain you are," cried Madam Grumbla, "there is surely no reason why you should be, vanity is pretty furniture when one has fourteen children. You say your children have ruined you, and so you are discontented with what I have done for them. I have always said you had a bad heart."

"Madam," said the Queen, "you mistake us, we owe you all gratitude for your kindness to us, but we are very exact in keeping our accounts, and our books will show that though we have not been extravagant, our treasury is not overflowing."

"Well, well," said Madam Grumbla, "let us finish this affair, for my temper is getting a little warm. This little boy is lively as a butterfly; you have always praised him, and certainly he will go all along the road saying, 'I am son of the King and Queen." Then speaking to the boy, she said, "Why do you talk so as you are going along." "Madam," replied Larkie, "I shall say nothing but what you order me to say." "This is not the thing," replied Madam Grumbla, "answer me to what I ask you, why do you say a thing which you know is not good, for you will not fail to do it, your father and mother know you will, and have complained of you to me."

"Madam," replied Larkie, "they have told you what they feared, but I promise you to do no such thing." "Ah ah, does he reason like this, but I am not surprised at it, he will always have an answer and set up his own will, but I will let you know that he shall not say it all along the road, I will settle that." At this moment she touched him with her wand and changed him into the bird which is now called Lark after him.

The King and Queen, who wished to embrace him, touched nothing but a lark, for the change was made in the twinkling of an eye, they afterwards took him, one after the other, on their fingers, but scarcely did they have time to kiss him, for he took his flight in obedience to the orders of the Fairy, who pronounced these terrible words, "Go where you can, do what you ought." The tears of the King and Queen softened Madam Grumbla a little, meantime she quitted them, saying, "It is your fault, you see what you have made me do," and scolding thus she got into her wheelbarrow chair

drawn by six magpies and as many jays, who made a dreadful noise as they carried her along.

Madam Grumbla, greatly excited at all that had taken place, went to the council of Fairies which was held the same day. She happened to find herself seated near the good Fairy Burned Almond, and as it is natural to speak of what one has been doing, she talked over the affairs of the King and Queen, and complained of the trouble she had had to establish their fourteen children, and all the while kept finding fault with the poor King and Queen, and addressing herself to them as if they had been actually present. She finished by asking Burned Almond if she had not some little kingdom or princess at her disposal, which would suit little Larkie. Burned Almond, who was the best woman in the world, while she blamed silently the ill humor of Madam Grumbla, assured her that she would very willingly take charge of Larkie, provided Grumbla would not meddle any farther with him, and would give her leave to make trial of his character and feelings. "Do what you will with him," said she, in a crosser tone than ever, "provided you let me hear nothing more of him," and she that very moment joyfully gave up to Burned Almond all her rights of Fairydom over little Larkie. Even regular law papers were passed between them.

Burned Almond, struck with the resemblance which existed between the fortunes of Mignionette and Larkie, resolved to examine their characters with more attention, with the design of making the fortune and happiness of the little girl. But she was pressed for time, for the day of her departure drew near, she was therefore obliged to find means to leave them together to their own good faith, to prepare themselves for their establishment. Her first care was to run after Larkie, who charmed with being able to fly, and naturally lively, was difficult to be caught, but how could a young bird resist the power of a Fairy? Burned Almond easily caught him in a snare, she placed him immediately in a beautiful cage, and carried him to her castle. As soon as the prince saw Mignionette, he recovered his former gayety, he flapped his wings, placed himself at the bars of his cage, making every effort to break them and approach her. What pleasure to him to hear Mignionette say to him, "good morning, my little friend, how pretty he is," and what grief to him to be able to answer her only by his Lark's note. But he softened that, he made it more charming, and showed her every mark of tenderness which a bird could do. Mignionette was touched by it, without having any idea of the truth, and said very simply to Burned Almond that she had always loved Larks, and begged earnestly that she might have this one, which the Fairy with a smile bestowed upon her. She only recommended her to take great care of him; Mignionette readily promised this, and kept her promise with pleasure. The day of the Fairy's departure having arrived,

she bade adieu to Mignionette. "Take care of the Lark," said she, "and do not let him get out of his cage, I shall be displeased with you if you do, and you will be very unhappy." So saying, Burned Almond mounted her car made of brown paper; her castle, her servants, her horses and her gardens flew away with her through the air, and Mignionette found herself sad and solitary in a little porcelain house. The house to be sure was in itself charming, but when one feels sad, of what use is a fine house. The garden furnished every moment cherries, gooseberries, oranges, and every kind or fruit which can be thought of, all ripe and ready to eat. The oven provided little cakes, biscuits, and maccaroons, and the pantry was filled with every kind of sweetmeats that can be imagined. So many good things might have consoled and amused her, but she saw the Lark who was so dear to her, all the time asleep in his cage. She went to see him every moment, without his giving the least sign of waking up. She secretly reproached the Fairy with having deprived her of this sweet consolation. At last, having tried every means to waken him, she resolved to look at him nearer, and see if she could not discover the mystery of the Fairy's conduct.

It was not without trouble that she made up her mind to do this, and she felt the remorse and fear which is always suffered when a person does what they have been expressly forbidden to do. She opened the cage more than once, but she shut it again. Then she reproached herself with her timidity, and becoming more bold, she took the bird in her pretty little hand. But scarcely was he out of the cage, than he took flight and alighted on the edge of a window, which, to complete the evil, Mignionette had left open, so far had she been from foreseeing this accident. Filled with fear and sorrow she ran to retake him, but the Lark flying some distance into the garden, she jumped out of the window and followed him. The window was in the lower story, but so great was her alarm she would have done the same if it had been in the attic. She called after the bird in the most simple and touching manner. Meantime the Lark kept still on the wing; at first she thought she was on the point of catching him. He advanced not only out of the enclosure round the house, but on, on, and after having passed over a great distance of country, he reached the edge of a great forest, which Mignionette perceived with deep sorrow, because she thought it would be impossible to find the bird again if he once got into the forest. She did not suffer from this anxiety long, for the Lark on which she had kept her eyes, became in a moment the prince whom she had been accustomed to see in her childhood. "What, is it you?" cried she, "and do you fly away from me?" "Yes, it is me, charming Mignionette, replied he, "but a supernatural power compelled me to fly from you." Mignionette in

transport forgot that she had disobeyed the Fairy, and thought all her troubles were over.

As they did not know the way back to the house from which they had come, they entered the forest, where they amused themselves in picking hazlenuts and asking each other a thousand questions about what had happened since they had been separated. They perceived at a distance the house of a peasant, and they resolved to ask shelter there for the night. They soon reached it, but the prince, in order that Mignionette might not be exposed to any danger, said to her, "wait for me under this great tree, I will go and examine the house, and see what kind of people live in it." He then left Mignionette and went towards a good woman who was sweeping before her door. He asked her if she would receive them for the night, himself and Mignionette. The old woman said to him in reply, "You look to me like two disobedient children who are running away from your parents, and who do not deserve that any one should take pity upon you." Larkie blushed at first, but he said very civil things to the old lady, and offered to work and assist her. He besought her most earnestly to grant his request, as he feared that Mignionette should pass the night in the woods exposed to the wolves and bears of which he had heard.

While he was doing all he could to move the heart of the old woman, the giant Wormwood, who was hunting boars in the forest, passed near where

Mignionette stood waiting, he was the King or rather the tyrant of the country. He thought Mignionette charming, but he was surprised that she did not seem pleased to see him, and without making any remarks to her, he gave orders to his followers to take this little girl and put her under his arm. He was obeyed, and putting spurs to his horse he was soon on the road to his capital city. The cries of Mignionette could not soften him, and then how bitterly did she repent having been disobedient. But her repentance came too late. These same cries, though they did not soften the giant, reached the ears of Larkie and the old woman. He quitted her suddenly, and running to the spot where he had left Mignionette, what was his grief when he saw her under the arm of the giant. He was very sure that if he had been with her at the moment of this violence, he would have perished a thousand times rather than have allowed it. But Wormwood and his followers were soon out of sight, and without looking at any thing but the track of the horses, Larkie followed their steps. The light, which was almost gone, did not permit him to proceed much farther, and the darkness of the night plunged him into a state of grief, which he could not understand, and which he might not have been able to resist. But having seated himself, he perceived at his side a little light, which he supposed at first to be a glow-worm and paid no attention to it. This light, however, grew larger

and larger, and at last was large enough to enclose a woman dressed in brown, who said to him, "Larkie, do not give yourself up to despair, take this gourd and this little basket, you will find them always filled with what you want to eat and drink. Keep also this walnut wand, put it under your left foot, and pronounce my name three times when you want me, and I will come to your assistance. This dog who accompanies me will never quit you, you may want him. Farewell Larkie, I am the good Burned Almond."

The Prince was in so much trouble that he had hardly felt the value of all these presents, but at hearing this name about which Mignionette had told him so much, he embraced the knees of the Fairy, saying to her, "Ah, madam, they are carrying off Mignionette, can you, can you think of any thing but offering her assistance?" "I know what has happened to her," said the Fairy, "but she has disobeyed me, and I do not wish to hear any thing said about her, you alone can help her." At these words the light was extinguished, and Larkie could discern nothing. In the midst of his grief, however, he felt flattered at being the only one who could do any thing for Mignionette. Meantime a thousand sad ideas respecting what might be the fate of the poor girl, tormented him, and the caresses of his new dog were not able to dissipate his grief for a moment. The morning which he longed for with so much impatience at last arrived, and he

kept on his way with so much ardor that he arrived the same evening at the Giant's city. Every body there was talking of the beauty of Mignionette, and of the love Wormwood felt for her. It was said that the King intended to marry her immediately, and people told what was then doing in the house of the new Queen, for folks are fond of adding to stories.

This news pierced the heart of Larkie, and persons with whom he conversed seeing him with the little basket, said, "here is a fine shepherd, why does he not go to take care of the King's sheep, he needs such a person, and the place would without doubt be given to him if it were known he wanted such a one."

Wormwood asked him some questions, and found he appeared capable, and as he made no difficulty as to what was to be paid him for his trouble, he was received as the King's shepherd, but as this office did not place him near the palace, he did not gain much by it. He only heard it said about the house that Wormwood was very sad because Mignionette did not love him. This news consoled him a little, but some days after as he was leading his flock, he saw a carriage go out of the palace yard at full speed, and in this carriage he saw Mignionette. The carriage was surrounded by twelve negroes on horseback, who had great sabres in their hands.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Where are you going," said Larkie, at the same

time showing them the iron of his crook. Mignionette seeing Larkie in such peril fainted away, and Larkie lost all consciousness. When he recovered his senses he had recourse to his wand, and Burned Almond immediately arrived. "Ah, madam," said he, "Mignionette is lost, perhaps she is no longer alive." "No," replied the Fairy. "Wormwood was displeased at the manner in which she answered him, and with the fidelity which she maintains towards you. He has caused her to be carried to the dark tower. You must find means to enter there, and I will assist you. Observe however that as you have already been a bird, I cannot give you that form. For the rest I warn you that Mignionette will have a great deal to suffer, for this tower is a terrible prison, but she is treated as she deserved, why did she disobey me?" Saving this she disappeared.

The prince, or rather his dog, sadly led the sheep along the road which Mignionette's car had taken. It was not long before he perceived that gloomy tower. It was in the middle of a plain, and had neither door nor window. It could be entered by a road made under ground, the entrance to which was concealed in a neighboring mountain, and the secret of which Larkie did not know.

Larkie was very fortunate to have a dog who knew so much, for he had every thing to do, as Larkie had all the time his eyes fixed upon the dark tower. The more he examined it, the more

he was convinced of the impossibility of introducing himself into it, but love, which can do every thing, furnished him at last with the means. After having regretted a thousand times his former state of a Lark, of which he had made no use except to fly poorly, he conjured the good Fairy Burned Almond to change him into a paper kite. She consented, and gave power to the dog to fulfill his wish. After having barked three times, the dog took the walnut wand between his teeth, and touching the prince, he became a kite, or ceased to be one, as he wished. Afterwards, by the help of the same dog, whose address and fidelity were extreme, he raised himself and easily reached the top of the tower. What joy for him to find himself near Mignionette, to hear the assurances of her affection, and what pleasure he felt, for he still retained the power of speech, to be able to assure her of his gratitude to her for having refused a crown out of love to him. He would easily have forgotten that he could not always remain at the top of the tower, and that he must return and take care of his flock, if the dog, more attentive to his duty than he was himself, had not taken care to pull the cord when it was time for him to come down.

When Larkie reached the ground, he resumed his own form and conducted his sheep to the King's palace, thinking only of the happy moments he had passed with Mignionette. Upon days when there was no wind to raise a kite, his grief would have

been extreme had it not been for the consolation of thinking that Mignionette shared his disappointment. They saw each other and conversed together for some time in this way, but at last, as there are always people who meddle with what does not belong to them, others who wish to find out any thing they can, and still more who wish to make their court to great people, the kite was observed. It was seen to stop on the dark tower, and Wormwood was informed of it. He came immediately out upon the plain, resolved to punish the rash adventurer who dared in this way to send letters to Mignionette, for he did not think of the kite being made use of for any thing else. Mignionette and Larkie were that moment having a very pleasant conversation, which was interrupted by the rapidity with which the faithful dog pulled down the prince. He did so because Wormwood came near him several times, calling out, "where is the shepherd, where is the shepherd—I will kill him because he has not warned me of what is going on." And the dog, fearing with reason, that the giant, by taking the cord which he held in his teeth would do what he pleased with the prince, decided to let it go and abandon the kite to the power of the wind, which was that day very high. The kite fell at a distance of more than a league upon the mountain, and the dog had time to take care of the gourd and the little basket and wand belonging to his master, before Wormwood came near him. He succeeded

in avoiding him, and observing the place where the prince had fallen, he joined him in a moment and caused him immediately to take his own form. They both hid themselves without any difficulty in the mountain, assisted by the night, which soon came on, while Wormwood, foaming with anger, was obliged to drive his sheep back to his palace himself. To prevent any one from coming near Mignionette, he ordered all his courtiers out into the plain, directing them to keep watch day and night, and prevent any one from approaching the dark tower. Larkie saw all this from the mountain where he remained, and thinking only of some means of delivering Mignionette, he called again for the assistance of Burned Almond. But when the prince asked her to give him armies to contend against those of King Wormwood, she disappeared without saying any thing to him, leaving him only a bunch of rods and a large bag of sugar plums.

It is very hard to take a joke, when it is in a matter about which a person is very much troubled, the prince however showed no ill humor at such a ridiculous present, but with that confidence which people formerly had in Fairies, and filled with that inspired by the love of his fair lady, he took the bag under his left arm, in his right hand his bunch of rods, and followed by his dog he marched boldly toward his enemies. As he approached them he saw that their height diminished, and that their ranks gave way. Surprised at this event, when he

came within speaking distance he saw distinctly that all these great soldiers and moustached grenadiers had become children of four years old. He cried out in a loud voice, "vield yourselves up immediately, or feel the rods." Then all the army turned before him and ran crying away. The dog, who followed, completed the disorder into which they were thrown. Larkie offered sugar plums to all who came within his reach, they immediately became submissive to his orders, and determined to follow him every where. The example of these brought back several others who had taken flight, so that Wormwood had not only no army with which to defend himself, but Larkie found himself at the head of a formidable one, for all those who had joined him in good faith, immediately resumed their height and strength.

Wormwood arrived at the close of the affair, in time to witness the loss of his army, and notwithstanding his great height and strength, at sight of Larkie he became not only a child like the rest, but a very small dwarf, with crooked legs. The prince made him a paper grenadier's cap, and a livery coat with hanging sleeves, and arrayed him in order to hold up Mignionette's train in her apartments. Larkie's first care, after this great victory, was to go immediately to the entrance of the dark tower, and deliver Mignionette.

The anxiety she had felt for the fate of the kite, had caused her to fall into a fainting fit, from which

she had not yet recovered, but the pleasure of being restored to liberty and of seeing her lover brought back to her in a moment, revived her, and she looked prettier than she had ever done before. Mignionette and Larkie began to converse after their arrival in the city, with that pleasure people feel after being relieved from great difficulties, when Burned Almond and Madam Grumbla arrived on different sides and each in her own carriage.

These happy lovers expressed their gratitude, and begged them to decide their fate. Madam Grumbla replied, "for my part I declare that I have nothing to do with you, one would be a fool to trouble herself with such wares, and I for one shall do nothing for you, have I not done enough for your family? Did ever any one have so many relations as you have," said she, taking Larkie aside.

"Sister," said Burned Almond to her gently, "you know our agreement, only have the goodness to send after the King and Queen, and ask them to bring with them the Coalman, and I will take care of the rest." "That is to say," replied Madam Grumbla, "that I am the wedding carriage." "No, sister," replied Burned Almond, "but if you will not take this trouble, only have the goodness to say so, and I will go if it is necessary."

Madam Grumbla, muttering all the time, "a pretty errand this, a dog's errand," ordered her wheelbarrow, which enlarged according to the necessity of the case, to go and seek the King and

Queen and the Coalman, and while Burned Almond was embracing and caressing these amiable children, she fell to abusing Wormwood, whom she chanced to meet. She reproached him with ill humor and vanity, and told him he was now punished for these and his other vices, and that every body was laughing at him. She amused herself in this way till the King and Queen arrived, to whom she said, as they were alighting, "It is not I who have sent for you here, and I am very sorry to see you, for you will be more hard to get along with than you have ever been." Looking at the Coalman she said, "here is a pretty figure to be at a princess' wedding." He was not a man to be spoken to in this way without making an answer, but the good Fairy put an end to the conversation, by begging the company to enter the palace. She could not prevail on Madam Grumbla to stay where there was so much happiness, but muttering in a low tone several very disagreeable things, she remounted her carriage and quitted the company.

Mignionette embraced a thousand times her dear papa, who had been supplied with every thing. The good Fairy had given him the porcelain house in which he had often received the King and Queen. They embraced their dear little Larkie, and consented to his marriage with Mignionette, agreeably to the proposal of Burned Almond. After having released the subjects of Wormwood from the alle-

giance they owed him, she made them take Larkie for their King, and by this means he found himself he sovereign of a large and flourishing kingdom, and the husband of the pretty Mignionette.

So they lived in peace from morning to night, And never was seen so happy a sight, Till at last so handsome and good they had grown, That such beauty and virtue was never known. The early bird they named for the King, Who can fly so high and so loudly sing, And the sweetest flower of the garden, is yet Called by the Queen's name, MIGNIONETTE.



## BLUE BIRD.

THERE was once a King who had great riches in money and in lands, but his wife died and he was inconsolable. He shut himself up for eight whole days in his cabinet, where he beat his head against the walls, so great was his affliction. It was feared that he would kill himself. His people put mattrasses between the tapestry and the walls, so that it was no longer of use to strike himself, for it gave him no pain. All his subjects agreed together to go and see him, and to say every thing to him they could to relieve his distress. Some prepared grave and serious discourses, others agreeable and even lively ones, but these made no impression on his mind, he scarcely heard what they said. Finally there presented herself before him a woman, so covered with black crape, veils and mantles, and long mourning habits, she wept and sighed so loudly and so violently that it excited his surprise. She told him that she would not undertake, like the others, to lessen his grief, that she came to increase it, because nothing was more proper than to weep for a good wife; that for herself, who had had the best of husbands, she depended upon weeping for him as long as she had any eyes in her head. Saying this she redoubled her cries, and the king at her example began to lament.

He received her better than the others who had

visited him, he talked to her of the beautiful qualities of the dear departed, and she enlarged to him on the virtues of him whom she had lost; they talked so much that they did not know what more to say about their grief. When the artful widow saw that the subject was nearly exhausted, she raised her veils a little, and the afflicted king relieved himself somewhat with the sight of the fair face of this poor afflicted one, who turned this way and that, very properly, her two great blue eyes, fringed with long black evelashes. Her complexion too was far from pale. The King looked at her with much attention, by degrees he said less about his wife, and at last he did not speak of her at all. The widow said she wished always to weep for her husband, the King begged her not to allow her sorrow to become immortal. In conclusion every one was astonished that he married her, and that the black was changed into green and rose color. It is often sufficient to know the weak side of people to gain admittance to their hearts, and do what is desired there.

The King had no children by his first marriage, except one daughter, who passed for the eighth wonder of the world. She was named Florina, because she resembled Flora, so fresh and young and fair was she. She was seldom seen in magnificent dresses, she preferred those made of light silks, with some little ornamental jewel, or perhaps a garland of flowers, which had an admirable effect

when placed in her beautiful hair. She was only fifteen when the King married the second time.

The new Queen sent for her daughter, for she too had one by her former marriage, who had been brought up by the Fairy Soussio, but she was neither graceful nor beautiful. Soussio had tried to make her so, but without success, she nevertheless loved her dearly. She was called Troutina, for her face was spotted like a trout, her black hair was so coarse and ugly that no one would like to have touched it, and she was altogether disagreeable. The Queen however, was foolishly fond of her, and talked of nothing but the charming Troutina, and as Florina had every advantage over her, the Queen was in despair. She tried every means to make the King dislike his daughter; there was not a day that the Queen and Troutina did not make some complaint of Florina. The princess, who was gentle and intelligent, endeavored to put herself out of the reach of this ill treatment.

The King one day told the Queen that Florina and Troutina were old enough to be married, and that the first prince who came to the court he should make arrangements to give him one of them. "I intend," said the Queen, "that my daughter shall be established first, she is older than yours, and as she is a thousand times more amiable, there is no reason to hesitate." The King who did not love to dispute, told her that he was willing and that she might do as she pleased.

Some time after this it was announced that King Charming was soon to arrive. Never was there a more gallant and magnificent prince, his mind and person answered exactly to his name. When the Queen heard the news of his coming, she employed all the embroiderers, all the tailors, and all the work people in the kingdom to arrange the dresses of Troutina. She begged the King that Florina might have nothing new, and having gained over her women, she made them steal all her dresses, her ornaments and her jewels on the very day that Charming arrived, so that when she went to dress herself she did not find even a ribbon. She saw plainly who had been at work in this matter. She sent to the merchants for some stuffs, but they replied that the Queen had forbidden them to furnish her with any. She remained then with only one very mean little dress, and her mortification was so great that she stayed in the corner of the saloon, when prince Charming arrived.

The Queen received him with great ceremony, and presented him her daughter, more brilliant than the sun in her dress, but looking more ugly than usual in consequence of the splendor of her ornaments. The King turned away his eyes, the Queen wished to persuade herself that he was overpowered by her splendor, and that he feared to look upon her so that she kept always putting her before him. He asked if there was not another princess called Florina. "Yes," said Troutina, pointing her fin-

ger, "she is hiding herself there because she is not dressed."

Florina blushed, and became so beautiful that King Charming stood like one in amazement. He rose immediately, and made a profound bow to the princess. "Madam," said he, "your incomparable beauty adorns you too much to make any foreign aid needed by you."

"My Lord," said she, "I confess to you that I am not accustomed to wear so mean a dress as the one in which I now appear, and you will do me a favor not to take any notice of me." "It would be impossible," cried Charming, "that such a wonderful princess could be in any place, and one have eyes for any thing but her."

"Ah," said the Queen, in a rage, "I am spending my time well in listening to you, believe me sir, Florina is already enough of a coquette, there is no need of saying such fine things to her."

King Charming easily understood the cause of the Queen's speaking in this way, but as he could not restrain his emotions he allowed his admiration for Florina to appear, and talked to her three hours in succession.

The Queen in despair and Troutina inconsolable at not being preferred to the princess, made great complaints to the King, and compelled him to consent that during the stay of King Charming Florina should be shut up in a tower where they could not see each other. In fact, as soon as she returned to

her chamber, four masked men carried her to the top of the tower and left her there in the greatest desolation, for she saw clearly that she was so treated to prevent her pleasing the King, who was very agreeable to her, and whom she would have liked for a husband.

As the latter did not know the violence which had been used with the princess, he awaited with a thousand impatiences the hour of seeing her again. He wished to speak of her to those whom the King had placed about him to do him honor, but by order of the Queen they said all the ill they could of her, pretended that she was coquetish, unequal, of bad humor, and that she tormented her friends and domestics, that she was very far from neat, and that she carried her avarice so far that she preferred to be dressed like a little shepherdess, than to buy rich stuffs with the money she received from the King, her father.

Charming suffered sadly, and felt emotions of anger which he found it difficult to moderate. "No," said he to himself, "it is impossible that heaven has put such an ill-formed soul into this master-piece of nature. I confess that she was not properly dressed when I saw her, but the shame that she felt proved sufficiently that she is not accustomed to see herself so. What, can she be wicked, with that enchanting air of modesty and gentleness? It is not a thing which I can imagine, it is much more easy for me to believe that it is the

Queen who decries her, she is not a mother-in-law for nothing, and the princess Troutina is such an ugly creature that it would not be extraordinary if she envied the most perfect of all beings.

While he reasoned in this manner, the courtiers who were about him, divined from his manner, that they did not please him by speaking ill of Florina. There was one more artful than the rest, who, changing his tone and language to ascertain the feelings of the prince, began to speak wonders of the princess. At these words he awoke as from a profound sleep, he entered into conversation and joy spread over his face. Oh love, how hard it is to conceal it.

The Queen, impatient to know if King Charming was much affected, sent to seek those that she had placed about him, and she spent the rest of the night in asking them questions. All they said confirmed her in the opinion which she had before formed, that the King loved Florina. But how can the melancholy of that princess be described. She laid herself down upon the floor of the dungeon where the masked men had carried her. "I should be less to be pitied," said she, "if they had put me here before I had seen this amiable King, the idea I have of him only serves to augment my sorrows. I cannot but think it is to prevent me from ever seeing him again, that the Queen treats me in this manner. Alas, how dearly does the beauty heaven has bestowed on me, cost me." She wept bitterly, so bitterly that her enemy herself would have pitied her if she had seen her grief.

The night passed in this manner. The Queen, who desired to attach King Charming to her by all the marks she could give him of her attention, sent him dresses of an unparalleled richness and magnificence, made in the fashion of the country, and the order of the Knights of Love, which she had obliged the King to institute, the day of their nuptials. It was a heart of gold enameled with fire color, and surrounded with numerous arrows, but pierced by one only, with this inscription. arrow alone wounds me." The Queen had caused to be cut for Charming a ruby heart as large as the egg of an ostrich, each arrow was a separate diamond, a finger long, and the chain to which the heart was attached, was made of pearls, the smallest of which weighed a pound. Finally, since the world was a world, nothing had ever appeared like it.

The King, at sight of this was so much surprised that he remained for some time without speaking. They presented to him at the same time a book, the leaves of which were of parchment, with admirable miniature illustrations. The covers of gold loaded with precious stones, and the statutes of the order of the Knights of Love were written in it, in a very tender and gallant style. The King was told that the princess whom he had seen, wished him to be her Knight, and that she sent him this present. At these words, he dared to flatter himself that he was

beloved. "What! the beautiful princess Florina," cried he, "does she think of me in such a generous and engaging manner." "My Lord," was the answer, "vou have mistaken the name, we come from the amiable Troutina." "Is it Troutina who would have me for her Knight," said the King, with a cold and serious air. "I am sorry I cannot accept this honor, but a sovereign is not sufficiently master of himself to take up all the obligations he would wish to. I know those of a Knight, and I should rather not receive the favors she offers me than render myself unworthy of them." He immediately replaced the heart, the chain and the book in the basket from which he had taken them, and sent them all back to the Queen, who with her daughter was almost stifled with rage, at the scornful manner in which the foreign King had received such a peculiar favor.

When he was allowed to visit the King and Queen, he went to their apartment, he hoped that Florina would be there. He looked on all sides to see her. As soon as he heard any one enter the apartment, he turned his head quickly toward the door, and seemed lost in uneasiness and chagrin. The malicious Queen imagined what was passing in his soul, but she took no notice of it. She spoke to him only of parties of pleasure, he answered her at cross purposes, finally he inquired where the princess Florina was. "My Lord," said the Queen

fiercely, "the King, her father, has forbidden her to leave her room until my daughter shall be married."

"And what reason," asked the King, "can there be for keeping this fair creature a prisoner?" "I do not know," said the Queen, "and if I did I should beg to be excused from telling it to you." The King felt himself inconceivably angry, he looked at Troutina, and thought it was probably that little monster who was the cause of his not seeing the princess. He immediately left the Queen, he could not endure her presence.

When he reached his own chamber, he told a young prince who was his companion and whom he loved very much, that he would give any thing in the world if he could gain over some one of the attendants of Princess Florina, so that he could speak to her for a moment. His companion easily found some of the ladies of the palace who entered into his wishes. There was one who assured him that the same evening Florina would be at a little lower window which looked out into the garden, and at which she could speak to him, provided he took great precautions not to be known, for added she, "the King and the Queen are so severe that they would kill me if they should discover that I had favored the passion of King Charming." The prince, delighted that he had brought the affair to this point, promised all that she wished, and ran to make his court to the King, in announcing to him the hour of meeting. But the wicked confidante did not fail to go and tell the Queen all that was going on, and to take her orders. She immediately resolved to send her own daughter to the little window, she instructed her in what she was to do, and Troutina followed her directions exactly, though she was generally very stupid.

The night was so dark that it would have been impossible for the King to perceive the trick which was played upon him, even if he had been less prepared than he was, so that he approached the window with transports of inexpressible joy. He said to Troutina every thing he would have said to Florina to persuade her of his passion. Troutina, profiting by the occasion, told him that she was the most unfortunate person in the world to have such a cruel mother-in-law, and that she should always suffer till her sister-in-law was married. The King assured her that if she would have him for a husband, he should be delighted to share with her his crown and his heart, and thereupon he drew his ring from his finger, and putting it on that of Troutina, he added that it was an eternal pledge of his faith, and that she had only to agree to go away with him immediately. Troutina answered as well as she could to his passion. He perceived that she talked rather foolishly, and it would have grieved him, but he supposed she was so fearful of being surprised by the Queen, that she hardly knew what she said. He did not leave her but on condition he might return the next evening, which she promised with all her heart.

The Queen having learned the success of this interview, promised every thing. And in fact the day having been agreed upon, the King came to take the princess in a flying chaise drawn by winged frogs, one of his friends, who was an enchanter, having lent it to him for the occasion. The night was very dark. Troutina went out mysteriously through a little door, and the King, who was awaiting her, received her in his arms and swore to her an hundred times eternal fidelity. But as he was not in a humor to fly a great distance in his winged chariot, without marrying his beloved princess, he asked her where she would have the marriage performed. She told him that her god-mother was a Fairy named Soussio, who was very celebrated, and that she would like to go to her castle. Though the King was not acquainted with the road leading there, he had only to tell his great frogs what he wanted; they knew the general map of the universe, and in a very short time they brought the King and Troutina to the dwelling of Soussio.

The castle was so well lighted that the King would have perceived his mistake at once, if the princess had not carefully covered herself with her veil. She asked for her god-mother, spoke to her in private, and told her how she had entrapped Charming, and prayed her to appease him. "Ha, my daughter," said the Fairy, "the thing is not

easy, he loves Florina too well, and I am certain that he will throw us into despair." Meantime the King was awaiting them in the hall, the walls of which were of diamonds, so clear and so pure that he saw through them Troutina and Soussio talking together. He fancied himself dreaming. "What," said he, "have I been betrayed, have demons brought here this enemy of my repose? Does she come to trouble my marriage? Does not my dear Florina appear, can her father have followed her?" A thousand thoughts filled his mind, he was beginning to despair. But it was worse when they entered the saloon, and Soussio said to him in a tone of authority, "King Charming, here is the princess Troutina, to whom you have pledged your faith, she is my god-daughter and I insist that you marry her immediately." "I," cried he, "I, shall I marry this little monster? you must think me of a remarkably easy temper when you make me such a proposition; know that I have promised nothing to her, if she says otherwise, she tells a --- "

"Do not finish your speech," said Soussio, "and do not be so bold as to fail in respect to me." "I agree," said the prince, "to respect you as much as a Fairy deserves to be respected, provided you restore my princess to me." "Am I not she, perjurer?" said Troutina, showing the ring. "Did you not give me this ring as a pledge of your faith? To whom did you speak at the little window, if not to me?" "How then," replied he, "have I been

cheated and deceived? But no, no I will not be duped. Come, come my frogs, my frogs, I shall

depart instantly."

"Ho, that is a thing out of your power, if I do not consent to it," said Soussio. She touched him, and his feet were fastened to the floor, as if they had been nailed to it. "If you should stone me," said the King, "if you should flay me, I would marry no one but Florina, I am resolved on the matter, and you may use your power as you will." Soussio employed gentleness, threats, promises, prayers. Troutina wept, cried, was angry, and grew calm again. The King did not say a word, and regarding them both with the most indignant air, made no reply to all their declamation.

Thus passed twenty days and twenty nights, during which time they did not cease to speak, without eating, without sleeping, without sitting down. Finally, Soussio exhausted and fatigued, said to the King, "Oh well, you are an obstinate fellow, who will not hear to reason; choose either to suffer penance for seven years, for having given your word and not having kept it, or marry my god-daughter." "Do with me what you will, provided I am delivered from this ugly creature." "Ugly yourself," said Troutina angrily, "a pretty fellow you are with your marshy equipage, to come into my own country and say uncivil things to me, and to break your word! if you had four cents' worth of honor, would you use me thus?"

"These are touching reproaches," said the King, in a tone of mockery. "Do you see any thing wrong in not taking such a pretty person for a wife?" "No no, she shall not be your wife," cried Soussio in a rage, "you have only to fly out of that window as soon as you please, for you will be a Blue Bird for seven years."

At the same time the form of the King was changed, his arms were covered with feathers, and formed wings, his legs and his feet became black and slender, crooked claws grew out from his nails, his body decreased, he was all covered with delicate feathers of a celestial blue, his eyes grew round, and shone like suns, his nose was nothing but an ivory beak, a white bunch of feathers rose up over his head forming a crown, he sung deliciously, and spoke as well. In this condition he uttered a grievous cry, to see himself so metamorphosed, and he flew as fast as he could to escape from the sad palace of Soussio.

Overcome by melancholy he flitted from branch to branch of the trees, and chose those only which were consecrated to love and sadness, sometimes on myrtles, then on cypresses, he sung the most plaintive airs, in which he deplored his cruel fate and that of the princess Florina. "In what place have her enemies hidden her," said he, "what has become of that fair victim? Does the barbarity of the Queen still allow her to breathe? When shall I seek her? Am I condemned to pass seven years

without her? Perhaps in that time they will marry her, and I shall lose forever the hope which sustains my life. These different thoughts afflicted Blue Bird to such a degree, that he longed for death to relieve him from his misery.

The Fairy Soussio sent back Troutina to the Queen, who was very anxious to know how the wedding was celebrated. But when she saw her daughter, and she told her all that had happened, she fell into a terrible rage, which turned upon poor Florina. "She shall repent more than once," said she, "having been able to please King Charming." She mounted into the tower with Trouting, whom she had dressed in her richest clothes; she wore a crown of diamonds on her head, and the daughters of three rich barons bore the train of her royal mantle, she had on her thumb King Charming's ring, which Florina had observed the day she conversed with him. Floring was greatly surprised to see Troutina in so grand apparel. "Here is my daughter, who has come to bring you a wedding present," said the Queen. "King Charming has married her, he loves her to folly, there never was a happier couple."

Immediately they displayed before the princess stuffs of gold and silver, precious stones, laces, ribbons, all placed in baskets, fillagreed with gold. In displaying all these things Troutina did not fail to put forth the King's ring, so that princess Florina could not doubt the truth of what she said. She cried out in despair, and begged them to take out

of her sight all these sad presents, that she wished to wear nothing but black, indeed that she would prefer death to any thing. She fainted, and the cruel Queen delighted at having succeeded so well, would not allow any one to assist the princess, but left her alone in the most deplorable state, and went maliciously to tell the King that the princess was so in love that nothing could be equal to the extravagances that she committed, and that care must be taken that she should not leave the tower. The King told her that she might manage the matter as she pleased, and that he should be satisfied with any thing.

When the princess recovered from her fainting fit, and reflected on the treatment she had received, on the ill usage her unworthy mother-in-law had bestowed upon her, and the hope she had forever lost of becoming the wife of King Charming, her grief became so severe that she wept all night. In this state she placed herself at her window, where she uttered the most tender and touching regrets. When the day approached, she closed the window and continued to weep.

The following night she opened the window again, and the deepest sighs and sobs rent her bosom, she shed torrents of tears; the day came and she hid herself in her chamber. Meantime King Charming, or we had better say the beautiful Blue Bird, did not cease to fly about the palace; he supposed his dear princess must be shut up there, and

if she made sad complaints, his were not less so. He approached the windows as much as he could, that he might look into the chambers. But fears that Troutina would perceive him and suspect who he was, prevented him from doing it as much as he would. "My life is at an end," said he, "if these wicked princesses discover where I am, they will revenge themselves, I must keep at a distance, or I shall be exposed to the greatest danger." These reasons obliged him to be very cautious, and he usually sung only in the night.

There was opposite the window where Florina placed herself, a cypress tree of prodigious height. Blue Bird came and perched upon it. He was scarcely there when he heard some one complaining. "How long shall I suffer thus," said she. "Will not death come to my succor? Those who dread it see it but too soon; I desire it, and ah, cruel, it flies from me. Barbarous Queen, what have I done that you should hold me in such a dreadful captivity? Have you not other means to render me unhappy? You have only to make me witness of the happiness your unworthy daughter enjoys with King Charming." Blue Bird did not lose a word of this complaint. He was much surprised at it, and awaited with great impatience the dawn of day, that he might see the afflicted lady. But before day dawned she had closed the window and retired.

The curious Bird did not fail to return the following night. It was bright moonlight—he saw a

young lady at the window of the tower, who was beginning her regrets. "Fortune," said she, "you who flattered me with the hope of reigning, you who once gave me a father's love, what have I done that you should plunge me suddenly into the deepest sorrow?" Blue Bird listened, and the more he listened the more persuaded he was that it was his amiable princess who was moaning so sadly. He said to her, "Adorable Florina, wonder of our age, why should you desire to end your life? Your sorrows are not without remedy." "Ah, who speaks to me in such a consoling manner?" cried she. "An unfortunate King," replied the Bird, "who loves you and who will never love any one beside you." "A King who loves me," added she, "Is this a snare laid for me by my enemy? But what can she gain by it. If she seeks to know my feelings, I am ready to discover them. I am ready to make the avowal of them."

"No, my princess," replied he, "the lover who speaks to you is not capable of betraying you." Saying these words he flew upon the window. Florina at first was much alarmed at such an extraordinary Bird, who spoke with as much spirit as if he had been a man, though he still preserved his nightingale voice, but the beauty of his plumage and what he said encouraged her. "Do I see you again, my princess," cried he. "Can I taste such perfect happiness without dying with joy? But alas, how is this joy troubled by your captivity, and

the state to which the wicked Soussio has reduced me for seven years?" "And who are you, charming bird ?" said the princess, caressing him. "You have spoken my name," replied the King, "and you feign not to know me. "What, the greatest King in the world, King Charming," said the princess, "can this be the little Bird I hold in my hand?" "Alas, fair Florina, it is but too true," replied he, "and if any thing could console me, it is that I preferred this penance to that of renouncing my passion for you." "For me," said Florina, "ah, do not seek to deceive me. I know, I know you are married to Troutina, I saw your ring on her finger. I have seen her all brilliant with the diamonds you have given her. She has come to insult me in my gloomy prison, loaded with a rich crown and a royal mantle which she had received from you, while I was here imprisoned in solitude."

"Have you seen Troutina in this dress?" interrupted the King, "have her mother and she dared to tell you that those jewels came from me? Oh heaven, is it possible that I hear such dreadful falsehoods, and that I cannot avenge myself as I would! Know that they have intended to deceive you, that by feigning your name they induced me to carry off this ugly Troutina. But as soon as I knew my error I determined to abandon her, and I finally chose to be a Blue Bird for seven years, rather than fail of the fidelity I have vowed to you."

Florina received such pleasure from hearing the

conversation of her amiable lover, that she forgot the horrors of her prison. What did she not say to console him for his sad adventure, and to persuade him that she would do no less for him than he had done for her. The day appeared, most of the officers of the court had arisen, and Blue Bird and the princess were still talking together. They separated with a thousand griefs, after having promised that every night they would converse together.

Their joy at having found each other was so extreme, that there are no terms capable of expressing it, each of them thanked love and fortune. Meantime Florina was uneasy for Blue Bird; "who will protect him from sportsmen," said she, " or from the sharp claw of some eagle, or famished vulture, who will devour him with as much appetite as if he were not a great King? Oh heaven, what would become of me if his light and delicate feathers, brought by the wind, should reach my prison, announcing to me the disaster that I dread. This thought prevented the poor princess from closing her eyes, for when one loves, illusions appear like truth, and what at another time seems impossible, then appears easy. She passed the day in weeping, till the hour came when she could place herself at the window.

The Charming Bird, hidden in the hollow of a tree, had been all day occupied in thinking of his fair princess. "How happy I am," said he, "to have found her again, how engaging she is, how much I feel the kindness she has shown me." The

tender lover counted to the last moments, the penance which prevented his marrying her, and never had he so anxiously desired the end of it. As he wished to pay Florina every attention in his power, he flew to the capital city of his kingdom, he went to his palace, he entered his cabinet through a broken pane of glass, he took some diamond earrings so perfect and so beautiful that there was never any thing in the world that came near them in beauty. He brought them the same evening to Florina, and begged her to wear them. "I would consent to do so," said she, "if you saw me in the day time, but since I only speak to you at night I will not put them on. Blue Bird promised to come to the tower whenever she wished. She immediately put them on and they passed the night in talking together.

The next day Blue Bird returned to his kingdom, he went to his palace, entered his cabinet by the broken pane and brought thence the richest bracelets that were ever seen. They were of a single emerald, cut in facits, hollowed in the middle, to pass the arm through. "Do you think," said the princess, "that my sentiments for you need to be cultivated by presents? Ah, you do not know me." "No, madam," replied he, "I do not imagine the trifles I offer you are necessary to preserve your tenderness for me, but mine would suffer if I neglected any occasion to show you attention, and when you do not see me, these little jewels will recall me to your mind." Florina said a thousand

agreeable things to him on this occasion, to which he answered by a thousand others not less so.

The following night the affectionate Bird did not fail to bring his fair one a watch of a reasonable size, which was in a single pearl. The excellence of the workmanship surpassed even the material. "It is of no use," said she, "to regale me with a watch. When you are separated from me the hours are endless, when you are with me they pass like a dream, so I cannot give them a just measure." "Alas, my princess," cried Blue Bird, "I have the same opinion as you have, and I am persuaded I feel what you describe even more deeply than you do." "After what you have suffered, to preserve your heart for me," replied she, "I can believe that you have carried love and friendship as far as is possible for them to go."

As soon as day appeared, the Bird flew into the hollow of his tree, where fruits served him for nourishment, sometimes he sung beautiful airs, and his voice ravished the passers by, they heard him but saw no one, and concluded that it must be spirits. This opinion became so common that people were afraid to enter the wood, a thousand fabulous stories were told as having occurred there, and the general terror added to the security of the Blue Bird.

No day passed without his making some present to Florina, sometimes a necklace of pearls, or the most brilliant and most beautiful set rings, diamond clasps, pins, boquets of jewels imitating the color of flowers, medals, in fine she had a mass of wonderful riches. She never wore them except at night, to please the King, and in the day time having no where to put them, she hid them carefully in her straw bed.

Two years passed in this way, and Florina did not once complain of her captivity. And why should she complain? She had the satisfaction of conversing every night with her best beloved. There was never so many pretty things said. Though she saw no one, and the Bird passed the day in the hollow of the tree, they had a thousand novelties to relate, the subject was inexhaustible. Their hearts and minds furnished abundant subjects of conversation. Meantime the malicious Queen, who kept her so cruelly in prison, made useless efforts to marry Troutina. She sent ambassadors to propose to every prince whose name she knew. As soon as they arrived, they were immediately dismissed. "If the princess Florina were in question, you would be received with joy," said they to them, "but for Troutina, she may remain unmarried as long as she pleases." At hearing this, the Queen and Troutina were filled with anger towards the innocent princess whom they persecuted. "What, notwithstanding her captivity does this arrogant creature oppose our plans? She must have secret correspondents in foreign countries, she is the same as a criminal of state, we will treat her as such, and seek every possible means to convict her."

They finished their consultation so late that it was almost midnight, when they resolved to ascend the tower and question her. She was at the window with Blue Bird, dressed in her jewels, her hair carefully arranged in a manner which is not usual with persons in affliction. Her chamber and her bed were strewed with flowers, and some Spanish pastilles she had just been burning spread about a delicious odor. The Queen listened at the door, and thought she heard a duet sung in two parts, for Florina had an almost celestial voice. Here are the words, which seemed to her tender.

"Ah how cruel is our fate,
What sad torments waste our youth,
But vain are all the snares of hate,
Nothing shakes our love and truth.
Spite of all our foes have done,
Our two fond hearts are ever one."

Some sighs finished their little concert.

"Ah, my Troutina, we are betrayed," cried the queen, opening the door suddenly, and throwing herself into the chamber. What became of Florina at sight of her. She quickly opened her little window to give the royal bird time to fly away. She was much more occupied with his preservation than her own. But he did not feel the necessity of going away, his piercing eyes had discovered the danger to which the princess was exposed. He had seen the Queen and Troutina. What was his affliction at not being in a state to defend his mistress.

They approached as if they would have devoured her. "Your intrigues against the state are known," cried the Queen, "do not think that your rank saves you from the punishment you deserve." "And with you Madam," replied the princess, "have you not been my jailer for two years? Have I seen any persons except those you have sent here?" While she spoke, the Queen and her daughter examined her with a surprise which was unparalleled; her admirable beauty and astonishing dress dazzled them.

"And where Madam," said the Queen, "do you get these jewels which shine like the sun? Will you make us believe there are mines in this tower?" "I found them here," replied Florina, "it is all I know about it." The Queen looked at her attentively, to penetrate to the bottom of her heart, and find what was passing there.

"We are not your dupes," said she, "you think to make us believe you, but princess, we know what you are doing from morning to night. These jewels have been given you, with the view of inducing you to sell your father's kingdom." "I should, to be sure, have it in my power to deliver it up," replied the princess, with a disdainful smile, "I, an unfortunate princess who have so long been languishing in confinement, how could I form a plot of this kind?"

"And for whom," replied the Queen, "are you dressed like a little coquette, your chamber filled

with odors, and your whole appearance so magnificent, that you would be considered dressed even in a court?"

"I have leisure," said the princess, "and it is not extraordinary, that I take some moments to dress myself; I have passed many others in weeping for my misfortunes, and surely I need not be reproached for indulging in this recreation." "Come, come, let us see," said the Queen, "if this innocent person has not some treaty made with our enemies." She looked every where, and coming to the straw bed, which she caused to be opened, she found there such a great quantity of diamonds, pearls, rubies, emeralds, and topazes, that she could not imagine where they had come from. She had resolved to put in some place such papers as would cause the ruin of the princess; and when the latter was not observing her, she hid them in the chimney; but fortunately the Blue Bird was perched at the top, and he seeing better than a lynx, and hearing every thing, cried out, "Take care, Florina, here is your enemy, who wishes to betray you." This voice, so little expected, alarmed the Queen so much, that she dared not do what she had meditated. "You see, Madam," said the Princess, "that the spirits who fly in the air, are favorable to me."

"I believe," said the Queen, out of her wits with anger, "that the demons act in your favor, but notwithstanding them, your father will know how to do you justice." "Would to heaven," cried Florina, "I had nothing to fear but the anger of my father; yours, Madam, is much more terrible."

The Queen quitted her, troubled at all she had seen and heard; she held a council, as to what she should do with the Princess. They told her, that if any Fairy or Enchanter had taken her under their protection, the true secret to irritate them would be to make her suffer some new penance, and that it would be best to endeavor to discover her intrigue. The Queen approved this idea. She sent a young girl to sleep in her chamber, who pretended to be simple, and who had orders to say she was placed there to wait upon her. But how could she fall into such an open snare. The Princess considered her as a spy, and her grief was as violent as can be imagined. "What! shall I no more be able to speak to the Bird who is so dear to me? He helped me to bear my misfortunes, I relieved his sorrows, our tenderness was enough for us. What will he do? What shall I do?" As she thought of these things, she shed rivers of tears.

She dared no longer to place herself at the little window, though she heard him flying about, and she was dying with desire to open it; but she feared to expose the life of her dear lover. She passed a whole month without his seeing her. Blue Bird was in despair; what complaints did he not make? How could he live without seeing his Princess? He had never felt so deeply the evils of

absence, and of his metamorphosis; in vain he sought for remedies to both; after having racked his brain he found no relief.

The spy of the Princess who had watched day and night for a whole month, felt herself so overcome by drowsiness, that she at last slept profoundly. Florina perceived it, she opened the little window and said,

> "Blue Bird, thou of Time's own hue, Haste thee to thy mistress true."

These were her own words, of which we are unwilling to change a single syllable. Blue Bird heard them so well, that he came promptly to the window. What joy to see each other again. How many things they had to say to each other. Tender words and protestations of their fidelity were renewed, a thousand and a thousand times; the Princess not being able to restrain her tears, her lover was much softened, and consoled her as well as he could. Finally the hour for parting had come, the jailer had not waked, and they bade each other adieu, in the most touching manner. The next day the spy fell asleep again, and the Princess immediately placed herself at the window, and said as before,

"Blue Bird, thou of Time's own hue, Haste thee to thy mistress true."

Immediately the Bird came, and the night passed like the other, without noise or disturbance, at which our lovers were delighted. They flattered themselves that the spy over them took so much pleasure in sleeping, that she would do the same every night. In fact the third also passed happily, but on the following one, the sleeper having heard some noise, she listened, without pretending to hear, and looking as well as she could, she saw by the light of the moon, the most beautiful bird in the universe, talking to the Princess, who caressed him, and finally she overheard several things in their conversation, which astonished her greatly; for the bird spoke like a lover; and the beautiful Florina answered him tenderly.

The day appeared, they bade each other adieu, and as if they had a presentiment of their approaching misfortunes, they quitted each other with extreme regret. The Princess threw herself on her bed, all bathed in tears, and the King returned to the hollow of his tree. Her jailer ran to the Queen and told her all she had seen and heard. The Queen sent for Troutina and her confidants; they talked a long time together, and concluded that the Blue Bird was King Charming, "What an affront," cried the Queen, "what an affront, my Trontina! This insolent Princess whom I thought so unhappy, enjoys in repose agreeable conversations with that ungrateful man,-Ah, I will revenge myself in such a bloody manner, that it shall be spoken of." Troutina begged her not to lose a moment, and as she thought herself more interested in the affair than the Queen, she was dying with joy when she

thought of all they would do to distress the lover and his mistress.

The Queen sent the spy back to the tower, and ordered her not to show any signs of suspicion, or curiosity; and to appear more sleepy than usual. She went to bed early, she snored her loudest, and the poor Princess deceived, opened the little window and cried,

"Blue Bird, thou of Time's own hue, Haste thee to thy mistress true."

But she called in vain all night; he did not appear, for the wicked Queen had caused swords, knives, razors and poignards to be fastened to the Cypress tree, and when Blue Bird came to fly out, some of these murderous weapons cut his feet, others wounded his wings, and finally, all pierced, he saved himself with much trouble in his tree, leaving a long track of blood behind him.

Why were you not there fair Princess to relieve the royal Bird? But she would have died if she had seen him in that deplorable state. He did not wish to take any care of his life, persuaded that it was Florina who had played him this trick. "Ah, barbarous woman," cried he sadly, "is it thus you repay the purest and most tender passion which was ever felt. If you wished my death, why did you not demand it yourself, it would have been dear to me from your hand. You have borrowed the hand of Troutina to destroy me." These sad ideas overcame him so much, that he resolved to die.

But his friend the Enchanter, who had seen the flying frogs return home with the chariot, and that the King did not appear, was troubled to know what could have happened, and he went round the world eight times to seek him, without being able to find him. He was making his ninth tour when he passed the wood where the King was; and, according to the rules which he had prescribed to himself, he sounded his horn a long time, and then he cried five times with all his might, "King Charming, King Charming, where are you?" The King recognized the voice of his best friend,-" approach this tree," said he, "and see the unfortunate King whom you love, drowned in blood." The Enchanter, filled with surprise, looked on all sides, without seeing any thing. "I am Blue Bird," said the King, in a weak and languishing voice. At these words the Enchanter found him without trouble in his little nest. Any one but he would have been more astonished than he was; but he was ignorant of none of the arts of necromancy. It cost him only a few words to stop the blood which was still flowing, and with some herbs he found in the wood, and a few words of magic, he healed the King as perfectly as if he had never been wounded.

He begged him to inform him by what adventure he had become a bird, and who had wounded him so cruelly. The King relieved his curiosity; he told him that it was Florina, who had revealed the mystery of the secret visits he had paid her, and that to make her peace with the Queen, she had concerted to have the cypress tree covered with poignards and razors, by which he had been almost cut to pieces. He cried out a thousand times against the infidelity of the Princess, and said that he should be but too happy to die, now that she had proved herself to have so wicked a heart. The magician declaimed against her, and all women, and advised the King to forget her. "What would be your misfortune," said he, "if you were capable of loving any longer such an ungrateful being. After what she has done to you, you have every thing to fear."

Blue Bird could not agree with him entirely, he still loved Florina too dearly, and the Enchanter who knew his sentiments, notwithstanding the care he took to hide them, endeavored to console him as well as he could, and told him that it was in vain to grieve for the future, and that it was best to wait and see what time would reveal.

The royal bird agreed with his friend, and begged him to take him home, and put him in a cage where he should be safe from the claws of the cat, and all murderous weapons. "But," said the Enchanter, "will you remain five years longer in such a deplorable condition, so little suitable to your affairs and your dignity. For finally you have enemies who maintain that you are dead, they wish to invade your kingdom. I have my fears that

it will be lost to you before you have recovered your original form." "Could I not," replied he, "go to my palace and govern all, as I have ordina-

rily done?"

"Oh," cried his friend, "the thing is difficult,—those who are willing to obey a man, are not willing to submit to a parrot; those who fear you as a King, all surrounded with pomp and grandeur, would pluck out all your feathers, seeing you but a little bird." "Oh, human weakness, brilliant outside," cried the King, "yet it signifies nothing without merit and virtue."

Florina, the sad Florina, in despair at not seeing the King any more, passed days and nights at her window, repeating incessantly,

> "Blue Bird, thou of Time's own hue, Hasten to thy mistress true."

The presence of her spy even did not prevent her, her despair was such that she took no precaution,—"What has become of you King Charming," cried she. "Have our common enemies made you feel the cruel effects of their rage? Have you been sacrificed to their fury? Must I see you no more, or weary with my misfortunes, have you abandoned me to the severity of my fate?" How many tears and sighs followed these complaints; how long had the hours become, in the absence of so dear and amiable a lover? The Princess worn out, ill, meagre and altered, could scarcely stand. She was

persuaded that the worst possible event had happened to the King.

The Queen and Troutina triumphed, vengeance gave them more pleasure than the offence had given them pain. And in fact what was the offence? King Charming had not wished to marry a little monster, whom he had a thousand reasons to detest. Meantime the father of Florina had become old, and he fell ill and died. The fortune of the wicked Queen and her daughter changed. They were regarded as favorites, who had abused their favor. The people mutinied, ran to the palace, and demanded the Princess Florina, who they acknowledged as their sovereign. The Queen enraged, attempted to treat the affair with disdain. She appeared on the balcony, and threatened the mutineers. But the sedition became general, the doors of her apartment were broken open, it was pillaged, and she was stoned. Trouting fled to her god-mother, the Fairy Soussio; she was in no less danger than her mother.

The great men of the kingdom assembled promptly, and ascended the tower, where the Princess was very ill. She was ignorant of the death of her father, and the punishment of her enemy. When she heard the noise, she did not doubt but they were coming to take her to her death; she was not alarmed. Life was odious to her since she had lost Blue Bird. But her subjects threw themselves at her feet, and acquainted her with the change which

had taken place in her fortune. They carried her to her palace, and crowned her.

The infinite care that was taken of her health, and the desire she had to go and seek Blue Bird, contributed much to re-establish her; and soon gave her strength enough to appoint a council to take care of her kingdom in her absence. She took some millions in jewels with her, and set out one night alone, without any one knowing where she was going.

The Enchanter, who took care of the affairs of King Charming, not having power sufficient to destroy what Soussio had done; concluded to go and find her, and propose to her some accommodation, in favor of which she would restore the King to his natural form. He took the frogs, and flew to the dwelling of the Fairy, who was at that moment talking with Troutina. Between an Enchanter and a Fairy, there is little ceremony; they had known each other for five or six hundred years; and during this time they had quarreled and made up a thousand times. She received him very pleasantly, "What does my comrade wish," said she, (this was their usual manner of speaking to each other), "is there any thing to serve him which depends on me?" "Yes, my friend," said the magician, "you can do every thing for my satisfaction, one of my best friends is concerned in it, a king whom you have rendered unhappy." "Ha, ha, I understand you, comrade," cried Soussio, "I am sorry for it,

but he can hope for no favor, if he will not marry my god-daughter, there she stands, fair and fine, as you see her, let him take council."

The Enchanter was struck dumb, so ugly did she seem to him; meantime he could not resolve to go away without making some arrangement, because the King had been in danger a thousand times since he had been in the cage. The nail on which it had hung had broken, the cage fell down, and his feathered majesty suffered much from the fall. Minette who was in the room when the accident happened, gave him a stroke with her paw, in his eye, which caused fears that he would lose the sight of it. Another time they had forgotten to give him water, and he came very near having the pip, when he was fortunately saved by having his fountain filled. A little rogue of a monkey having escaped, caught at his feathers through the bars of the cage, and he would have spared him no sooner than he would have done a jay, or a lark. Worst of all, he was on the point of losing his kingdom, the heirs every day told new falsehoods to prove that he was dead. Finally, the Enchanter agreed with his comrade, Soussio, that she should carry Troutina to King Charming's palace, that she should stay there some months, during which they should make preparations for marrying each other; and that he should be restored to his own form on condition of taking again that of a bird, if he refused to take Troutina finally for his wife.

The Fairy gave Troutina clothes of gold and silver, then she mounted her behind her on a dragon, and they went to the kingdom of King Charming, who had just arrived there with his faithful friend the Enchanter. With three strokes of the wand, he saw himself the same as he had been before, handsome, intellectual and magnificent. But he bought very dearly the time which his penance was shortened. The thought alone of marrying Troutina, made him shudder. The Enchanter gave him the best reasons he could, but they made but little impression upon his mind; and he was less occupied with the care of his kingdom, than with the means of prolonging the term which Soussio had given him to make up his mind to marry Troutina.

Meantime Queen Florina, disguised in the dress of a peasant, her face hidden by her thick and tangled hair, a straw hat on her head, a cloth bag over her shoulder, began her journey, sometimes on foot, sometimes on horseback, sometimes by sea, sometimes by land. She made all haste possible; but she did not know which way to direct her steps, she feared always to turn on one side, lest her amiable King should be on the other. One day she stopped on the border of a fountain; the silver waters of which bubbled over the little stones; she seated herself on the grass, tied her fair locks with a ribbon, and bathed her feet in the water. She resembled Diana bathing, on her return from the chase.

Just at that time, there came along a little old woman, all crooked, leaning on a staff; she stopped and said to her, "What are you doing there, my pretty girl, you are very lonely?" "My good mother," said the Queen, "I do not need company, for I have my griefs with me, my uneasiness, and sorrows." At these words, her eyes filled with tears; "What! so young as you are; and do you weep?" said the good woman. "Ah, my daughter, do not afflict yourself,—tell me sincerely what is the matter with you; and I hope to be able to relieve you." The Queen was very willing, she related her troubles, the conduct of the Fairy Soussio, and finally, how she was looking for Blue Bird.

The little old woman straightened herself up, moved briskly, suddenly her face grew fair and young; she appeared superbly dressed, and looking at the Queen with a gracious smile, "incomparable Florina," cried she, "the King you seek is no longer a Bird, my sister Soussio has restored him to his original form; he is in his kingdom, do not afflict yourself; you shall arrive there, and you shall succeed in your wishes. Here are four eggs, break them in your pressing wants, and you will find help which will be useful to you." In finishing these words, she disappeared.

Florina felt very much comforted at what she had heard. She put these eggs in her bag and turned her steps towards the kingdom of King Charming.

After having walked eight days and eight nights, without stopping, she reached the foot of a mountain of prodigious height, all of ivory, and so smooth that the feet could not be placed upon it without slipping. She made a thousand useless attempts; she slid, she fatigued herself; and in despair at such an unsurmountable obstacle, she lay down at the foot of the mountain, resolved to die there, when she remembered the eggs the Fairy had given her. She took one, "Let us see," said she, "if she has not mocked me, when she promised me help in time of need." As soon as she had broken it, she found within it little golden hooks, which she put on her hands and feet. As soon as she had done so, she ascended the ivory mountain without any trouble, for the sharp hooks penetrated the ivory, and prevented her slipping. When she was at the top, she had new trouble to descend, all the valley was one single mirror,there were round it more than sixty thousand women, who viewed themselves in it with extremepleasure, for the mirror was two leagues wide, and six high; and every one saw herself there exactly as she wished to be. The freckled appeared fair, the brunette had black hair, the old thought themselves young, the young did not grow old; finally, all faults were so well hidden there, that people came to it from all quarters of the world. It was enough to make one die of laughing to see the grimaces, and contortions, made by most of these

coquettes. The men were no less attracted to the spot, the mirror pleased them also. It represented some with fine hair, others with a better height and form; a martial air, and a better mien. The women at whom they laugh did not laugh the less at them, so that the mountain was called by a thousand different names. No one had ever reached the summit, and when they saw Florina there, the ladies uttered long cries of despair, "Where is this rash creature going?" said they, "undoubtedly she has spirit enough to walk on our glass, with the first step she will break it in pieces." They made a frightful noise.

The Queen did not know what to do; for she saw great danger in making the descent. She broke another egg, from which issued two pigeons, and a chariot which became at the same time large enough to hold her conveniently; the pigeons then descended gently with the Queen, without any thing disagreeable having happened to her. She said to them, "My little friends if you would carry me to the place where King Charming holds his court, you will not oblige an ungrateful person." The civil pigeons did not stop, day nor night, till they reached the gates of the city. Florina alighted and gave them each a kiss, which was worth more than a crown.

Oh how her heart beat on entering the city. She disguised her face that she should not be known. She asked the passers by where she could see the

King. Some began to laugh, "See the King," said they, "ha, ha, what would you have Soilletta, go, go wash yourself, you have not eyes enough to see the King." The Queen made no answer, she went away gently, and asked another whom she met, where she could place herself to see the King, "He is to come to-morrow to the temple with the Princess Troutina," said they, "for he has at last consented to marry her."

Heavens, what news! Troutina, the unworthy Troutina, on the point of marrying the King. She had no longer strength to speak, or walk; she sat down under a porch, on the stone steps, hidden by her long hair, and her straw hat. "Unfortunate that I am," said she, "I have only come to augment the triumphs of my rival, and make myself a witness of her happiness. It was then on her account that Blue Bird ceased to visit me. He has become a traitor to me, and has left me to afflict myself without troubling himself with my sorrow."

When one is much grieved, it is rare that he has a good appetite. The Queen sought out a lodging, and went to bed without supper. She rose at daylight, and ran to the temple; she did not get in until after several rebuffs from the guards and soldiers. She saw the throne of the King, and that of Troutina, who was already looked upon as a Queen. What sorrow for one so tender and delicate as Florina. She approached the throne of her rival; she stood there leaning against a marble pil-

lar. The King came first, more handsome and amiable than he had ever been. Troutina appeared richly dressed, and so ugly that she frightened one. She looked at the Queen, rubbing her forehead,— "Who are you," who dare to approach my excellency, and so near my golden throne?" "I am named Soiletta," replied she, "I have come from a distance to sell you some rarities." She searched in her bag and drew out the emerald bracelets King Charming had given her. "Ho, ho," said, Troutina, "here are pretty green glass toys, do you want a five sol piece for them. "Show them Madam to good judges," said the Queen, "and then we will make our bargain."

Troutina, who was delighted to have an excuse for speaking to the King, advanced to the throne, and showing him the bracelets, asked his opinion of them. At sight of the bracelets, he remembered those he had given to Florina, he turned pale, he sighed, and did not answer for a long time. Finally, fearing that his embarrassment might be perceived. he made an effort, and replied; "These bracelets are worth, I think, as much as my kingdom, I thought there was only one such pair in the world; but here is one equal to those I have seen." Troutina returned to her throne, where she looked like an oyster in its shell. She asked the Queen how. much she would take for her bracelets. "It would give you too much trouble to pay me Madam," said she, "I will propose another bargain. I will give

you the emeralds, if you will obtain for me permission to sleep in the cabinet of echoes, which is in the King's palace." "I am willing, Soilletta," said Troutina, laughing as if she would die, and showing teeth longer than the tusks of a boar.

The King did not ask where these bracelets came from, less from indifference for her who offered them, (although she was well fitted to arouse curiosity,) than from the invincible dislike he felt for Troutina. But it should be mentioned, that when he was Blue Bird, he had told the Princess that there was under his apartment a cabinet which was called the Echo Cabinet, which was so ingeniously contrived, that every thing which was whispered there could be heard by the King when he was in bed in his chamber; and as Florina desired to reproach him with his infidelity, she could not have thought of a better method.

She was conducted by Troutina's orders into the Echo Cabinet, and began there her lamentations, and regrets. "The misfortune which I suspected, is but too certain, cruel Blue Bird," said she, "you have forgotten me, you love my unworthy rival! The bracelets that I received from your faithless hand have not been able to recall me to your recollection, so far am I banished from it." Then sighs interrupted her words, until she gathered strength to speak, when she began again to complain, and continued her moanings till day-light.

The attendants had heard her all night groaning

and sighing. They told Troutina, who asked her why she had made such a noise. The Queen replied, "that she slept so well, she often had dreams and sometimes spoke aloud." As to the King, by a strange fatality, he had heard nothing. The fact was, that since he had loved Florina, he had not been able to sleep; and when he laid down on the bed to take some rest, the physicians gave him opium.

The Queen passed part of the day in strange uneasiness,-" If he has heard me," said she, "can there be more cruel indifference? If he has not heard me, what shall I do to bring myself to his knowledge?" Something was necessary to attract the attention of Troutina. Florina had used her most splendid jewels, and now she had recourse to her eggs. She broke one, and immediately there came out a little carriage of polished steel, ornamented with gold, it was drawn by six green mice, and driven by a rose colored rat; and the postillion, who was of the rat family, was of flax color. There were seated in the carriage four puppets, more brisk and intelligent than any which ever appeared at the fair of Saint Germaine. They performed the most remarkable feats that were ever seen. Maelzel's famous automata, were nothing compared to them.

The Queen was overpowered at this new wonder of the magic art. She said nothing until evening, which was the hour when Troutina went to walk. She then placed herself in a path, making her mice

gallop, and draw along the carriage, the rats and the puppets. This novelty surprised Troutina so much, that she cried out three times, "Soiletta, Soiletta, Soiletta, will you take five sols for your carriage and its mouse equipage?" "Ask the learned men and doctors of the kingdom," said Florina, "what such a wonder is worth, and I will submit to the decision of the most learned." Troutina, who was absolute in every thing, replied, "without troubling me longer with your vulgar presence, tell me what is the price." "To sleep again in the Cabinet of Echoes," said she, "is all I ask." "Go, poor thing," replied Troutina, "you shall not be refused," and turning to her women, she said, "what a foolish creature to make no more of her rarities."

The night came, and Florina said every thing she could think of most tender, and she said it as uselessly as before, because the King had not failed to take his opium. The attendants said among themselves, "this peasant girl is mad, what is she talking about all night." "If she is," said others, "there is no want of spirit and passion in what she says." She awaited impatiently for the day, to see what effect her lamentations had produced. "What," said she, "is this barbarous man deaf to my voice? He no longer hears his dear Florina; what weakness in me still to love him, how I deserve the marks of scorn he has given me." But it was in vain for her to contend against her affliction.

There was only one more egg in her bag, she broke it, and there came out a pie, containing six birds nicely dressed, and prepared, but they nevertheless sung wonderfully well; told good stories, and understood medicine better than Esculapius. The Queen was charmed with such an admirable thing, she went with her pie into the anti-chamber of Troutina.

While she was waiting for her to pass, one of the King's valets approached her, "Soiletta," said he, "do you know if the King did not take opium to make him sleep, you would certainly stun him, for you chatter all night in a surprising manner." Florina was no longer astonished that he had not heard her; she searched in her bag, and said to him, "I am so little afraid of disturbing his rest, that if you will omit to give him the opium this evening, in case I sleep in the cabinet, all these diamonds and pearls shall be yours." The valet consented, and gave her his word he would do what she asked.

Some moments after Troutina appeared, she perceived the Queen, who was pretending to be about to eat her pie, "What are you doing there Soiletta?" said she, "I am eating astrologers, musicians, and doctors," said she. At the same time all the birds began to sing more melodiously than syrens; and then they cried, "give us a piece of silver, and we will tell you a good story." A duck who was a King, cried, "Quack, quack, quack, I am

a doctor, I cure all diseases, and all follies, except love." Troutina more surprised at so many wonders, than she had ever been in her life, swore "by the holy cabbage, this is an excellent pie, I will have it. Here, here, Soiletta, what shall I give you for it?" "The usual price," said she, "let me sleep in the Echo Cabinet." "Hold," said Troutina, generously, (for she was in good humor at the acquisition of such a pie), "you shall have a pistole beside." Florina, more pleased than she had before been, retired thanking her.

As soon as it was night, she caused herself to be conducted into the Cabinet, ardently hoping that the valet might keep his word, and that instead of giving the King opium, he would offer him something else, which would keep him awake. When she thought every one but the King was asleep, she began her usual lamentations. "To how many dangers have I exposed myself," said she, "to seek you, while you fly from me, and wish to marry Troutina? What have I done, cruel Prince, that you forget your vows? Do you remember your metamorphosis, my kindness to you, our tender conversations?" and she repeated many of them with a memory which proved that nothing was so dear to her thoughts.

The King did not sleep, and he heard distinctly the voice of Florina, and all her words, though he could not understand whence they came; but his heart, penetrated with tenderness, recalled to him

with so much power the idea of his incomparable Princess, that he felt his separation from her with the same grief as at the moment when the knives had wounded him on the cypress tree. He began to speak on his side, as the Queen had done on hers. "Ah, Princess," said he, "too cruel to a lover, who adored you; is it possible you sacrificed me to our common enemies?" Floring heard what he said, and did not fail to answer, and tell him that if he would converse with Soiletta, he should have all the mysteries, which till now he had not been able to penetrate, explained to him. At these words the King impatiently called one of his valets, and asked him if he could find Soiletta, and bring her to him. The valet replied, that nothing was more easy, as she was sleeping in the Echo Cabinet.

The King could only wonder how such a great Queen could be disguised as Soiletta, or by what means Soiletta should know such secrets, if it were not the Princess in her disguise. In this uncertainty he arose, and dressing himself hastily, he descended by a hidden staircase to the Echo Cabinet, the key of which the Queen had taken. But the King had one, which opened all the doors of the palace.

He found her in a light dress of white silk, which she wore under her dirty habits; her beautiful hair fell over her shoulders, she was reposing on a couch, and a lamp placed at a little distance, gave but a feeble light. The King entered sud-

denly, his love overpowered his resentment, as soon as he knew her; he threw himself at her feet; he moistened her hands with his tears, and almost died with joy, grief, and the thousand different thoughts that filled his mind.

The Queen was no less agitated. Her heart was oppressed; she could scarcely heave a sigh; she looked steadily at the King without speaking to him, and without having power to speak. She could not even reproach him. The pleasure of seeing him again, made her forget for some time the subjects of complaint she thought she had. Finally, they explained every thing, they justified themselves, their tenderness was renewed, and all that embarrassed them was the Fairy Soussio.

But at that moment the Enchanter, who loved the King, arrived with a famous Fairy, the very same who had given the four eggs to Florina. After the first compliments, the Enchanter and the Fairy declared that their power being united in favor of the King and Queen, Soussio could do nothing against them; and that thus the marriage of the King and Queen need not be delayed.

It is easy to imagine the joy of these two young lovers. As soon as it was day, it was published throughout the palace, and every one was delighted to see Florina. This news reached Troutina; she ran to the King; what was her surprise to see her fair rival. As soon as she wished to open her mouth to pour out her abuses, the Enchanter and

the Fairy appeared. They metamorphosed her into a pig, in which shape she was able to retain the clumsiness of her former figure. She ran off, always grunting, into the back yard, where the long shouts of laughter that followed her, threw her into despair.

King Charming, and Queen Florina, delivered from such an odious person, no longer delayed their marriage festivities. Gallantry and magnificence equally appeared in them; and it is easy to judge of the happiness they enjoyed, after the long misfortunes they had suffered.



## LEGENDS OF THE DWARFS.

#### FROM THE GERMAN.

In all ages Dwarfs have been supposed to possess gold, silver, and diamonds in abundance, for they could glide every where without being seen; no hole was too little for them to go through, provided it conducted to rich treasures.

As to the marriages of the little people, as the Dwarfs are sometimes called in Germany, many pleasant traditions have been preserved.

The little race at one time wished to celebrate a marriage at the castle of Eilenburg, in Saxony, and during the night, they entered by the key-hole, and the cracks of the windows into the hall, and jumped about on the smooth floor, like peas in a barn. On which the old Count, who was sleeping under the canopy of his bed in this hall, awoke, and was much astonished at sight of this troop of the little people. One of them richly dressed as a herald, advanced towards him, and invited him politely, and in proper terms to join the feast. "But," added he, "we beg only for one thing, you alone must be present, none of your household must witness the festival at the same time with you, even to take one look."

The old Count replied pleasantly, "Since you have disturbed my slumbers, I should like to join

you." Then they brought him a little woman, some little torch bearers appeared, and mysterious music struck up. The Count had much trouble to prevent losing his little partner, who escaped from him so easily in the midst of her jumping, and who turned him round so fast that he could hardly breathe. Suddenly in the most animated part of the dance, they all stood still, the music ceased, and the crowd all ran to the cracks of the doors, to the mice holes, and any little passages out they could find. But the bridal party, the heralds and the dancers raised their eyes to an opening in the ceiling of the hall, and discovered there the face of the old Countess, who was indiscreetly looking at the joyous troop. They then bowed before the Count, and the one who had invited him advanced again, thanking him for his hospitality. "But," added he, "as our pleasure, and our marriage festivities have been so disturbed, because another human eye has reached us, some serious evils will befall your race." After this they fled in haste, and the old Count found himself alone in the hall.

The Dwarfs wear little caps, by means of which they render themselves invisible. These caps are called chaperons of the mist. A peasant one day was threshing in his barn, and by chance knocked off the cap of a Dwarf. The latter became visible, and soon slipped through a crack into the ground.

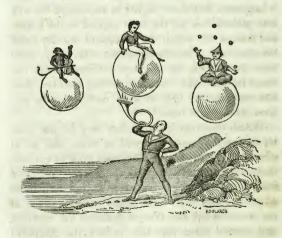
The Dwarfs who live in the grottos, and crevices about the dwellings of men, often show themselves

very kind to them; and in the night while men are sleeping, they relieve them from their most painful labors. When the country people go out in the morning with their carts and tools, they are amazed to find all finished. The Dwarfs hide in the bushes, and laugh at their astonishment. Sometimes the peasants are enraged at finding their grain cut before it is perfectly ripe, but when afterwards, storms of rain or hail come, and they discover that not a straw would have been saved, they thank the little prudent race from the bottom of their hearts.

A shepherd had on a mountain a magnificent cherry tree. One summer when the fruit was ripe, it happened that three nights in succession the tree was picked, and all the fruit carried to the boards and frames on which the Shepherd usually dried his cherries. The village people said, "this must have been done by the brave Dwarfs, who trot about in the night, wrapped in long mantles, their feet concealed, as light as birds, and zealously perform the work of men."

Watch was kept for them, but they did not trouble them; they were allowed to come and go at pleasure; but at last the Shepherd grew so curious, that he wanted to know why the Dwarfs concealed their feet, and if these feet were shaped like those of men. The next year, when summer came, at the season when the Dwarfs gathered the cherries, and carried them into the fruitery, the Shepherd

took a bag full of ashes and spread it around the tree. The next day as soon as it was light, he ran to the tree, which he found entirely picked, and saw the traces of little geese feet on the ashes underneath. The Shepherd began to laugh, and joke, because the Dwarfs had geese feet, and that he had discovered their secret. Soon after the Dwarfs, broke up their dwellings and retired to the mountains, and never rendered any more assistance to men. The Shepherd who betrayed them became weak and feeble for the rest of his life. So says the legend.



# JEANNETTE,

OR,

### THE LITTLE GOSSIP.

THERE were once two very good people whose dwelling was in the neighborhood of a Fairy's castle. They had often heard of her power, and goodness, but they had never asked her assistance. Their natural timidity had perhaps prevented them, or perhaps the content they felt with their situation. It is fortunate when one feels no necessity for calling on the Fairies for help, and it is much better to be able to take care of ourselves.

These good people had only one daughter, who was really very pretty; but pretty as she was, her parents thought her a thousand times handsomer than she was; indeed, they brought up their little Jeannette, (for this was her name,) and did not perceive, either on account of the blindness which is but too common to fathers and mothers, or finally, because they did not know any better, they did not perceive that she had one great fault; it was that of talking all the time, and of constantly repeating what she had seen and heard. The good people looked at, as vivacity or spirit, the first indiscretions which Jeannette committed, they repeated before her the little stories she had told of her companions, they praised them, and almost always laughed at

them. This notice of her parents encouraged Jeannette in her faults.

I said just now that these good people had never asked any favor of their neighbor the good Fairy; but very often people do for their children what they would not do for themselves. They determined, therefore, to present themselves before the Fairy; but when they reached her presence, they were somewhat embarrassed. The father twirled his hat in his hands, while the mother presented a basket of fresh eggs, and begged her to accept them. As soon as the good Fairy perceived them, she approached them with as much kindness, as if they had been her equals. "What can I do for you my good people," said she. "We have come," they replied, "to ask a favor of you; it is, that you would take, and educate our little daughter Jeannette, she is in truth a pretty child."

"Well, bring her to me in eight days," said the good Fairy to them kindly. At the end of eight days the good people returned to the Fairy's castle, dressed in their Sunday's best; and leading Jeannette by the hand. She too was dressed in her best; she had new wooden shoes, a cap as white as snow; and a little scarlet boddice, trimmed with blue ribbons,—the Fairy thought her very pretty, and took her into her service. She dressed her very handsomely, and gave her no other occupation but that of playing with seven or eight little Princesses, who had been placed by Kings and Queens

with the Fairy, to be educated by her; a charge which she was very willing to undertake.

Jeannette's work was not difficult, so she got along very well the first day; but a great talker does not stop to think always what it is proper to talk about, and Jeannette did not yet know any thing of what was going on in the castle. But she could not help prattling, so she told the little Princesses, sometimes one of them, and sometimes another, every thing about her father, her mother, and the village where she had lived. The subject was not very interesting, and some of the little girls whispered, "Jeannette's stories are not very amusing; she need not talk so much, if she has nothing better to say." The next day, however, her stories were not merely dull, they were mischievous. She still kept talking all the time, and employed herself in telling one little girl that she had heard another say she was not pretty; to this one she would whisper that another said she was not neat; and a hundred things in this way, until the little Princesses, who before her arrival had lived in the greatest harmony, were all at once quarreling with each other, and could not be persuaded to make up. The Fairy found out the state of things, and easily discovered the cause of it. She reproved Jeannette, and threatened to send her home to her parents. This reprimand had an effect for some days, at the end of which time, she obtained permission to go and see her father and mother, and shew them her

fine clothes. The Fairy knowing how much she was given to prating, warned her to take care and not tell too much; and to be sure and not say any thing which was not true, about what was done at the Fairy castle. Jeannette promised, but as her love of talking, and a desire to tell great stories of what she had seen, and what she did at the Fairv's, was the real reason of her desiring to go to see her mother, she told at home all she knew, or rather what she thought she knew. She had a great deal to say about the Fairy, and did not always speak the exact truth; among other things, she said that the Fairy had made her a Princess, and that she was immediately going to her fine kingdom. She told a hundred stories as ridiculous as this. These accounts almost turned the heads of Jeannette's father and mother, they never had expected to have a Princess for their daughter.

It was not only to her father and mother that Jeannette told these great stories; she repeated these and similar ones to all her acquaintance in the village, and she was dressed so handsomely, that they thought her stories must be true. The next day all the peasants in the village feeling a desire to have their daughters made Princesses, sent from every side to ask this favor of the Fairy. If she had granted it, there never would have been such a number of Princesses, for all the village sent to the castle to ask this trifling favor of the Fairy. She compelled Jeannette to go and carry her answer,

which was, as may be supposed, a simple refusal. But she went on this errand in some vexation, for the pretended Princess, appeared in her wooden shoes, and the same village dress which she had worn when she lived with her parents.

Jeannette appearing in such a different dress from that in which they had seen her before, and one so little fitted to the dignity which she pretended to have had conferred on her, proved that the stories she had told must have been false; and being vexed at having been sent on such a foolish errand, they laughed at the pretended Princess; all the inhabitants of the castle did the same. Such a correction as this might have made Jeannette more discreet, and less gossiping; for she was very much mortified at it; meantime, notwithstanding her tears and the advice the Fairy gave her, to help her to correct her faults, which she offered in the kindest and most gentle manner, she soon began to whisper about her mischievous stories among the Princesses, and told them, it was because the Fairy was jealous at her being so pretty she had become so much displeased with her, and sent her in her plain dress to the peasants. She told this and other silly stories to the Princesses, until, by comparing her tales together, they all came to find out what a little gossip, and false story teller she was. They all laughed at her, and pointed their fingers at her, and the Fairy was not sorry, for she hoped Jeannette would at last be brought to try to cure herself of this disagreeable fault. She thought Jeannette was a very pretty little girl, and had many good qualities; and if she could get rid of this bad habit, the Fairy and every body else would love her. The Princesses not liking to play with the story teller, she went to the nurses and governesses, and by telling stories from one to the other of them, and things she pretended to have heard the Princesses say of them, she made a great deal of uneasiness in the family. At last the Fairy found she could do nothing with her, but shut her up in her pavilion, which was called the Solitude. This was the place to which the Fairy retired to meditate upon the mysteries of her art; it was there she sharpened her wand, and retired from the great world; to meditate at her ease, and rest herself after her great operations. This was the place to which she conducted Jeannette, to make her forget a habit which she could only practice in society. This pavilion was situated in the midst of a plain, which produced only briars, and which stretched as far as the eye could reach. The horizon of this plain was terminated by no mountain; and the Fairy never came there but through the air, for no road led to this retreat; the apartments were furnished with the most interesting painted hangings, which were ever seen. A deliciously arranged garden surrounded the pavilion, and a superb aviary filled with the most rare birds from every country in the world, added to the delights of this pretty garden.

It was in this Solitude that the Fairy shut up the little Jeannette, furnishing her with every thing that could be agreeable to her. Jeannette did not care much for the solitude, but she could not help weeping at having no one to talk to. At first she had recourse to lamentations, then to songs; this relieved her at first, but she was so accustomed to run from one person to another, to tell each tales of the other, that talking and singing to herself was no great pleasure to her. Besides, her love of gossiping, Jeannette was very curious; it is a fault that is almost always joined to the love of talebearing. When persons love to tell a great many stories, they are curious to spy out something to talk about. Jeannette took so much trouble, and used such measures that during the absence of the Fairy, she entered her cabinet, and examined with great care all the instruments of her Fairy art. What surprised her most, and with great reason, were the rules and regulations of the Fairies. She read in the list of these the advice to them to take great care of their wands, and never have them out of their reach; and to take care especially never to fall asleep in the presence of any one, since their power depended on their strictly following this direction. For the book positively asserted, that if any one else got possession of the wand, that person could not only do what he or she pleased with it, but that the Fairy herself would become the slave of the holder of the wand.

Jeannette was greatly amazed at this discovery, and not being able to take advantage of it herself, because the Fairy never went to sleep in the Pavilion of Solitude, and as she had no one to whom she could confide this important secret, she felt the greatest pain that a gossip can feel; that of knowing something important, and not being near any one to whom she could confide it. In this cruel state, after having meditated a long time on the subject, she resolved on the following expedient.

In the garden which surrounded the Fairy's pavilion, as has been mentioned, there was an admirable aviary, filled with all known, and unknown birds. There were of course among them parrots. On one of these birds Jeannette cast her eyes, with the intention of making a confidant of her. She treated the bird kindly, and taught her to talk in a remarkable manner, which, as Jeannette loved talking so much, was not difficult for her to do. At last the parrot could say any thing, and having taught it many useless things, her instructor at last made her say this little rhyme,

If while the Fairy sleeps,
Her wand you take away,
Command whate'er you will,
Earth and Heaven will obey.

When the parrot was thoroughly taught, Jeannette begged the Fairy to allow her to send the bird to one of the little Princesses at the castle. The Fairy considered this request as a mark of kind-

ness, on the part of Jeannette, and putting the parrot into her carriage, she gave it to the Princess, to whom Jeannette desired it might be given. But what was the amazement of the Fairy, when in the midst of all the little Princesses, after having gone through all the common parrot remarks, after having said a thousand times, "Good morning Jeannette, my little dear," and a great many things of this kind, she heard the bird say in a tone of advice,

"If while the Fairy sleeps,
Her wand you take away;
Command whate'er you will,
Earth and Heaven will obey."

The Fairy groaned at the risk she had run, and causing her field carriage to be harnessed immediately, she ordered her griffins to go and seek Jeannette. She was obeyed, and in less than a quarter of an hour, notwithstanding the prodigious distance, Jeannette was brought into the middle of the castle. She was then reproved for her imprudent curiosity, and what is more, for her ingratitude. Without giving her time to invent the false excuses which she was about to bring forth, with one stroke of her wand, the Fairy metamorphosed her into a parrot, and gave in this way a striking example to girls to warn them from talking too much, and repeating what they have heard said. She did not think it safe to leave her at liberty to fly about the fields, she therefore put her into an osier cage, on which

was written, "the Princess Jeannette's Palace," in order that she might not be mistaken, and that her falsehoods and mischief making might not be forgotten, but serve as a lesson and warning to others.

In this cage the Fairy sent her back to her parents, telling them that she found it impossible to make any thing good of her daughter; but she advised them to take care what they said before her, for all the village would soon know it. She added for their consolation, that she would not cause them much expense, since a little cheese would henceforth serve for her nourishment. Her parents were simple people, and though they were very sorry, they soon got accustomed to the change, and were not as unhappy at it, as might have been expected,—though they could not but feel sorry that instead of a nice young woman, their daughter had turned out nothing but a prating parrot.

Thus bad children, who do not correct their faults, not only make themselves unhappy, but distress and disappoint their parents.



## THE RAINBOW PRINCE.

THERE was once a King who had a little daughter, so beautiful, that he thought he could not give her any name so proper as that of Fairer-than-Fairy. The good Prince did not think that such a name would of course draw down upon the child the dreaded hatred of the Fairies; but the fact was they were no sooner informed of his having given his daughter this proud name, than they formed the design of seizing the young Princess, and either tormenting her very cruelly, or hiding her from the sight of the world.

The oldest of all the body of Fairies was charged with this business. She was named Ugalina, and was so old, that she had only one eye, and one tooth left; and was obliged to put these every night to soak in a strengthening liquid. She was at the same time so wicked, that she was employed all the time in executing any dark and evil business which her companions, among the Fairies, chose to plan. With so much experience, and such evil intentions, it was not difficult to carry off Fairer-than-Fairy. This little girl who was then only seven years old was almost frightened to death, when she saw herself alone with such a hideous figure. She felt, however, a little encouraged, when after having traveled about an hour under ground, she found herself at a superb palace, surrounded with magnificent gardens, and discovered that her dog and her cat had followed her.

The old woman led her into a very pretty chamber, which she gave her for her habitation; and showing her a chimney, ordered her expressly to keep up a constant fire, and take the greatest care to preserve without breaking, two glass phials, which she intrusted to her. After these two orders which she gave out with terrible threats, the old woman went away, and left the little girl very contented, with being able to walk about the palace, and to have but two things, which did not seem to her hard to do. She acquitted herself of these duties for several years, and became so accustomed to a life of solitude, that she entirely forgot her father's court.

One day when she was amusing herself in playing near a beautiful fountain, which was situated in the middle of the garden, the rays of the sun shining on this clear water formed a Rainbow, and its beauty astonished Fairer-than-Fairy. Presently there came from this Rainbowa voice, the sound of which charmed her even more than the sight of it. This voice seemed to be that of a young man. By the gentleness and charm of his conversation, one could not help thinking he must have the most agreeable figure; but it was all left to the imagination, for the person was invisible.

The beautiful Rainbow explained to Fairer-than-Fairy, that he was very young, that his father was a powerful King, and that Ugalina, to revenge herself upon his parents, and afflict them, had deprived him for some years past of his natural form; that she had shut him up in this palace. He told her that he found this penance very difficult to bear at first, but that since the young Princess to whom he was speaking had come to live in the garden, he had been made very happy, by having the privilege of seeing her, and that he loved her so much, he should now be sorry to leave the garden. He said several other very pleasant things to the young Princess, and as it was so long since she had heard such gentle words, it was very agreeable to her.

The Prince could not appear, nor make himself heard, except under the form of a Rainbow. This could not be formed unless the sun shone upon the water. Fairer-than-Fairy lost no opportunity of enjoying the conversation of her new friend. She talked so long one day, that the fire which was intrusted to her care went out.

Ugalina at her return, perceived this negligence, and far from appearing sorry, she seized with joy this pretext to exercise all her rage against the young Princess, who was her prisoner. She ordered her to go very early the next morning to ask for fire of Locrinos, to light that which had gone out on her hearth. This Locrinos was a monster, who devoured every body who came in his way. Fairerthan-Fairy obeyed the orders of the old Ugalina, with the greatest sweetness; and without having

had an opportunity to bid good bye to her Rainbow friend, she went to find Locrinos, who she thought would kill her. As she crossed a wood, she was warned by a bird to pick up a pebble, which shone like a star. This she found in a neighboring fountain, and she was told to make use of it when the time of need came.

Fairer-than-Fairy continued her route, and arrived at the house of Locrinos. Fortunately she found only his wife, who was alone in the house. She was touched with compassion at sight of the young Princess, (she was so pretty no one could help being pleased with her). The wife of the monster, was however, still more pleased with the brilliancy of the pebble she presented her. She gave her the fire, in gratitude for the beautiful stone she had received from her, and made her a present of another, of which she told her she could some day make use. She then sent her away without doing her any injury.

Ugalina showed as much surprise as displeasure at this unexpected good fortune of the young Princess; and Fairer-than-Fairy awaited with extreme impatience the moment when she could tell Prince Rainbow what had happened to her, and how glad she was to see him. But Rainbow already knew these adventures, as he had a Fairy cousin who protected him, and who knew all that had happened.

In order to prevent Fairer-than-Fairy from any

new dangers, Rainbow planned another manner of making his visits to her; and the Princess used it successfully for several days. She placed on the window seat in her chamber, according to the instructions of Prince Rainbow, a basin filled with water. Rainbow formed himself in this basin when the sun shone upon it, in the same way as he had done at the fountain; so that Fairer-than-Fairy was able to converse with her friend, without going away either from the fire or the two phials, where the old woman kept her eye and her tooth. These conversations always lasted as long as the sun shone.

Prince Rainbow came one morning to their usual meeting, in the deepest sadness. He had just learned that he was about to be immediately banished from this charming spot, without his knowing to what part of the world he was to be conducted. The grief of the two friends may easily be imagined; they did not lose a single one of the sun's rays, and appointed a meeting for the next day. The next day came, but unfortunately the weather was cloudy. After a few hours the sun shone for an instant. Fairer-than-Fairy ran to make use of it; and she did it in such haste, that she overturned the basin of water she had prepared the night before. She had no other water at hand, except what was contained in the two bottles confided to her care. She had only this once to see her friend before their separation. She did not therefore hesitate to break the two phials, and the Rainbow was formed. Their parting was very tender, the Prince assured the young Princess of his affection, and promised to neglect nothing in his power to release her from her confinement, and expressed his hopes that they might then be united in marriage. Fairerthan-Fairy assured him that she never should desire to marry any one else.

The fate which separated them so cruelly did not allow them a long time to converse. The Rainbow vanished, and Fairer-than-Fairy, beside herself with grief, resolved to undertake every thing. She took her dog, her cat, a branch of myrtle, and the pebble which the wife of Locrinos had given her, and set out to see what she could do to bring about a meeting.

When Ugalina perceived on her return the flight of her prisoner, she became furious, and the same moment ran after her. She reached her just when the poor girl, overcome with fatigue, and wishing to take a little rest, had lain down in a cavern, which the pebble she had with her had formed about her. The little dog who watched carefully over his mistress, bit Ugalina in such a severe manner, that instead of seizing upon Fairer-than-Fairy, as she was preparing to do, she knocked herself against the cavern, and broke her only tooth.

Before she had recovered from the pain and rage this accident caused her, the young girl had leisure to escape, and go forward on her road. The fear of such pressing danger, made her forget her fatigue, but at last she could go no farther, and sunk to the ground.

It so happened that the branch of myrtle which she carried, touched the ground, and this branch immediately formed itself into a cabinet of verdure, where she hoped to be able to sleep quietly. Ugalina for her part, was only occupied with the desire of revenging herself on the Princess; so she set forth anew, and reached her just as she was beginning to fall asleep. The cat who had climbed upon one of the branches of the trees which formed the cabinet, was of no less assistance to her mistress than the little dog had been before. She jumped at the face of Ugalina, and scratched out her only eye, and thus forever delivered Fairer-than-Fairy, from this pitiless enemy. But scarcely was she relieved from such great anxiety, when she began to feel the horrors of hunger and fatigue. She was ready to fall to the ground, when finally, half dead, and in a dreadful state, she arrived at a little green and white house.

A beautiful lady dressed in these two colors, who was the mistress, and only inhabitant of the dwelling, received her with all possible kindness. After a hearty supper, and a long sleep in the best bed in the world, the green and white lady prophesied to the Princess, that she would finally succeed in her designs. She embraced her, and bade her farewell, giving her at the same time a nut, which she

ordered her not to crack, except in a case of pressing necessity. After having suffered great fatigue, Fairer-than-Fairy stopped again at a house, and was welcomed by a lady exactly like the one she had last left. She also received there a present, and upon the same conditions, but instead of a nut it was a golden pomegranate. The sad and weary Princess was still obliged to pursue her journey with incredible suffering, and she was a third time received at a house like the two others, which she had met with on her way.

These houses belonged to three sisters, all equally endowed with a knowledge of the Fairy art, of a similar form and disposition; and it was their desire that their houses, and their dresses should resemble each other exactly. Their only occupation was to take care of the unfortunate; they were as gentle and benevolent, as Ugalina had been cruel and evil-minded. This third Fairy comforted the Princess, begged her not be discouraged, and promised her the reward of her troubles. She accompanied her speech with a present of a rock crystal bottle, ordering her to open it only in case of absolute necessity. The young Princess thanked her with the gentleness and affection which sadness and hope inspire, and left this spot, her mind filled with the most agreeable thoughts.

The road she took conducted her after some hours into a charming wood. Here she found the purest air, perfumed by the most delicious odor. She had not advanced more than a hundred steps into this beautiful place, when she perceived a silver castle fastened to four of the largest trees; it was suspended by heavy chains of the same metal, and so well balanced, that it was moved by a gentle wind, without making any more noise than was sufficient to lull one into a sweet sleep.

The hope of seeing an end to her misfortunes redoubled at this sight; but these hopes were somewhat chilled, when she perceived that the castle was borne in the air, and that it had neither doors nor windows. She did not doubt, (and I never knew why,) that this was the moment to use the nut which had been given her. She opened it, and out there came from it a soldier of a size proportioned to the place in which he had been enclosed. There hung from his girdle a golden key, attached to a little chain, and this key might be half as large as a pin. Fairer-than-Fairy, used one of the chains which hung down to the ground, like a ladder, and mounted upon it to the silver castle. She held in her hand her little soldier, who notwithstanding the apparent disproportion of his height, opened with his little key a door which could not be perceived, and which became large enough to allow the Princess to enter. A wonderful saloon composed the inside of this beautiful castle, it was lighted only by stars of gold, and jewels, attached to the ceiling. In the middle of the saloon was a bed, hung with rainbow colored drapery, and suspended by golden

cords. The bed rocked in the same manner as the castle did, and produced a motion which caused the most delicious sleep.

It was on this bed that Prince Rainbow, who was still handsomer than any of the beautiful objects by which he was surrounded, had been sleeping ever since the moment which had separated him from his beloved Princess. If he had not been placed under this enchantment, his grief and his love would have left him no repose, and the presence of his dear Princess would have transported him with joy.

Fairer-than-Fairy, notwithstanding all her emotions, dared hardly look around upon all the strange things she saw. She feared that the person she perceived might not be him, whom she had only learned to love by the sound of his voice, and she wondered how he could sleep there so quietly, while she had been enduring such troubles for his sake. Though she spoke in a very loud tone, the sleep of the Prince did not appear to be disturbed. She then had recourse to her pomegranate, all the seeds of which it was composed were so many little violins, which when it was opened, ran toward the ceiling, and immediately produced strains of music of the greatest melody and sweetness. The Prince was not yet entirely awake, but he opened his eyes a little, and looked round in amazement.

Fairer-than-Fairy growing impatient at not being recognized, employed the last present which had

been made her. She opened her bottle, and there came out of it a little Syren who stopped the violins, and who sung in the ear of the Prince all that the Princess had suffered, to come and find him. She added some gentle reproaches to this recital, and at last the Prince was awakened.

He threw himself in a transport at the feet of Fairer-than-Fairy. At the same moment the saloon opened on every side, and a throne of gold, covered with precious stones arose in the middle. A court as numerous as beautiful then appeared, which preceded several cars of extraordinary beauty, filled with the fairest and best dressed ladies. At the head of these cars was one which exceeded all the rest in magnificence. It was easy to judge that a lady who was seated in it by herself was the Queen of the court. This lady was still of great beauty, though she was no longer in the bloom of youth. She was the mother of Prince Rainbow. She informed him that his father was dead, that the anger of the Fairies was appeased, and that thus nothing prevented him from coming to govern his faithful people, who wished for nothing so much as his presence.

At another time the Prince would have been transported at this news, but the desire of declaring Fairer-than-Fairy Queen of the estates which had just been offered him, occupied him entirely. He resolved to show the Princess in all her charms to the new court; and he felt that the sight alone of

her would cause his choice to be approved; but at that moment the three green and white sisters arrived, they declared the royal birth of Fairer-than-Fairy, and at this news the applause of the court was absolute and unanimous.

The Queen mother caused the two lovers to ascend her car, and conducted them to her capital city. All the inhabitants received them with acclamations, and cries of joy, which cannot be described. The marriage was celebrated the same day, and brought no decrease of their affection; years did not destroy their beauty, nor their tenderness. They lived several ages, always beloved by their subjects, and left their children heirs of their perfections and their good fortune.



## FINETTA CINDRETTA,

oR,

## THE SPANISH HORSE.

THERE was once a King and a Queen who had managed their affairs very badly, and their subjects drove them from their kingdom. They sold their crowns to buy something to eat, their clothes and their laces and all their furniture, one piece after another. The shop keepers was tired of buying, for every day they sold something new. At last the King and the Queen became very poor, and the King said to his wife, "we have nothing left, we must do something to get our living, and that of our poor children; think of what we can do, for till now I have known no trade but that of King, which is very easy."

The Queen had a great deal of spirit. She demanded of him eight days to think the matter over, at the end of that time she said to him, "Sire, you need not afflict yourself, you have only to make nets in which to catch the birds in the woods and the fish in the sea. When the twine is used up, I will spin and make more. With regard to our three daughters, they are lazy creatures, who expect to be made great ladies. We must carry them off so far, so very far that it will be impossible for them ever to get back, for we can never afford to dress them as fine as they wish to be."

The King began to weep when he saw that he must be separated from his children, but the Queen was mistress, and he at last agreed to what she wished. He said to her, "get up early in the morning and take your three daughters and carry them where you please."

While they were planning this matter, princess Finetta, who was the youngest of the daughters, listened through the key-hole, and when she had found out the design of her papa and mama, she ran as fast as she could to a large grotto a great way off, where her godmother Merlusia lived. Now this godmother was a Fairy.

Finetta had taken two pounds of fresh butter, some eggs, milk and flour to make a nice cake for her godmother, that she might be well received. She began her journey with a light heart, but the farther she went the more tired she became. The soles of her shoes were all worn out, and her little tender feet were so torn that it was a great pity. She could not go a step farther. She sat down on the grass and cried.

Just then there came by a beautiful Spanish horse, all saddled and bridled; there were more diamonds on his housing than would buy three cities, and when he saw the princess he began to feed gently by her side; bending his knees, he seemed to do her reverence. She immediately took hold of the bridle. "Dear pony," said she, "will you be so kind as to carry me to my godmother,

the Fairy. You will do me a great favor if you will, for I am tired to death; and if you serve me now I will give you good oats and hay, and you shall have fresh straw to lie down upon." The horse stooped almost to the ground before her. Finetta jumped upon him, and he began to run so lightly that it seemed as if he must be a bird. He stopped at the entrance of the grotto as if he had known the road to it, and in fact he did know it, for it was Merlusia herself, who having guessed that her goddaughter wanted to visit her, had sent this fine horse to bring her.

When she came in she made three low curtesies to her godmother, and took up the hem of her dress and kissed it, then she said "good morning godmother, how do you do, here is some butter, some milk, some flour and some eggs I have brought you, to make a good cake, such as they make in our

country."

"Welcome Finetta," said the Fairy, "come and let me embrace you." She embraced her twice, which greatly rejoiced Finetta, far Madam Merlusia was no common Fairy. She said, "here my goddaughter I want you to be my little chamber maid, take off my cap and comb my hair." The princess took off her cap and combed her hair as gently as possible. "I know very well," said Merlusia, "what you have come here for, you have heard the King and Queen planning to carry you off and lose you, and you wish to avoid this misfortune. Hold,

you have only to take this ball, the thread upon it will never break, fasten it to the door of your house and hold it in your hand. When the Queen has left you it will be easy to find your way back by following the thread."

The princess thanked her godmother, who filled a bag for her with fine dresses, all of gold and silver. She embraced her and made her mount again on the pretty horse, and in two or three minutes he carried her to the door of the little house occupied by their majesties. Finetta said to the horse, "my little friend, you are very handsome and very good, you go quicker than the sun, I thank you for your trouble—go back to where you came from."

She then entered the house softly, hiding her bag under her pillow, and going to bed without saying any thing. As soon as it was light the King awoke his wife. "Come, come madam," said he to her, "get ready for your journey." Then she got up, put on her thick shoes, a short petticoat, a white scarf, and took a staff in her hand. She sent for the oldest of her daughters, who was called Love Blossom, the second Night Belle, and the third Fine Ear, whence she was commonly called Finetta. "I dreamed last night," said the Queen, "that we must go to see my sister, she will feast us well, we will eat and laugh as much as we please." Love Blossom, who was in despair at living in the wilderness, said to her mother, "go madam where you please, I do not care where, provided I am moving."

The two others said the same. They took leave of the King, and now behold them all four on the road. They went so far, so very far that Fine Ear was sadly afraid she should not have thread enough, for they went nearly a thousand leagues. She always walked behind her sisters, passing the thread skillfully along the bushes.

When the Queen thought her daughters could not find their way back, she went into a thick wood and said to them, "my little lambs go to sleep, I will be like the shepherdess who watches about her flock, that the wolf may not eat any of them." They laid down on the grass and fell asleep. The Queen left them, never expecting to see them again. Finetta shut her eyes but did not go to sleep. "If I were a wicked girl," said she, "I should go away immediately and should leave my sisters to die here, for they beat and scratch me sadly, but notwithstanding all their unkindness I will not leave them."

She awoke them and told them the whole story. They began to cry and begged her to take them with her, and promised if she would, that they would give her their prettiest dolls, their little silver cups and saucers, and all their play things and sugar plums. "I know very well that you will do no such thing," said Finetta, "but I will nevertheless be a good sister." So getting up she followed her thread, and the princesses did the same, and in this way they got home as soon as the Queen did.

When they stopped at the door they heard the King say, "I feel sadly to see you come home alone." "Very well," replied the Queen, "we had too much trouble with our daughters." "But," said the King, "if you had brought back my Finetta, she would console me for the others, for they cared for nobody."

Then they knocked, toc, toc, toc, and the King said, "who is there?" They replied, "it is your three daughters, Love Blossom, Night Belle, and Fine Ear." The Queen began to tremble. "Do not open the door," said she, "they must be spirits, for it is impossible the girls can have come back." The King was as much of a coward as his wife, and he said, "you deceive me, you are not my daughters," but Fine Ear, who was cunning, said to him, "Papa, I am going to stoop down, look at me through the cat's hole, and if I am not Finetta you may beat me." The King looked as she bade him, and as soon as he perceived her he opened the door. The Queen pretended to be very glad to see them again, she told them that she had forgotten something, that she come back to look for, but she had certainly intended to go back and find them again. They feigned to believe her, and went up into a pretty little barn chamber, where they slept.

"Here," said Finetta, "my sisters, you promised me a doll, give it to me." "Indeed, you have no right to expect it, little witch," said they, "you are the cause that the King does not regret us," and so

saving they took up their distaffs and beat her like plaster. When they had done beating her, she went to bed, and as she had so many wounds and bruises she could not sleep, and she heard the Queen say to the King, "I will carry them in another direction still farther, and I am certain they will not come back." When Finetta heard this, she got up softly to go and see her godmother. She went into the hen house and took two hens and a cock. and wrung their necks, then two little rabbits, which the Queen was feeding on cabbages, to feast herself with some time. She put these all into a basket, and set forth. She had not crept along a league, dying with fear, when the Spanish horse came galloping along, snorting and neighing. She thought it was all over with her, and that soldiers were coming to take her. When she saw the pretty horse all alone, she mounted him, delighted to go so easily, and soon arrived at her godmother's.

After the usual ceremonies, she presented her the chickens, the cock and the rabbits, and prayed her to give her some good advice, because the Queen had declared she would carry them to the end of the world. Merlusia told her favorite not to afflict herself, and she gave her a bag full of ashes. "You must carry the bag before you," said she, "you must shake it and walk over the ashes, and when you come back you have only to look for the impression of your steps. But do not bring back your sisters, they are too wicked, and if you bring them

back I will never see you more." Finetta took her leave, carrying away, by order of the Fairy, thirty or forty millions of diamonds in a little box, which she put in her pocket. The horse was all ready, and carried her back as usual. At daylight, the Queen called the princesses. They came, and she said to them, "the King is not very well; I dreamed last night that I must go and gather him some blossoms and herbs in a certain country where excellent ones grow, they will make him young again, and we must set out early."

Love Blossom and Night Belle, who knew that their mother only wanted to lose them, were very much grieved at these words. They were obliged however to go, and they went so far that such a long journey was never made. Finetta, who did not say a word, kept behind the others, and shook her ashes with great skill, so that the wind and the rain did it no hurt. The Queen, who was persuaded that they could not find the way back again, watched one evening when all three were fast asleep, and took that time to leave them and return home.

When it grew light and Finetta knew that her mother was not there, she waked her sisters. "We are here alone," said she, "the Queen has gone away." Love Blossom and Night Belle began to cry, they tore their hair, and scratched their faces with their nails. They cried out, "Alas, what shall we do?" Finetta was the best girl in the world,

she still pitied her sisters. "See to what I expose myself," said she, "for when my godmother gave me the means of returning, she forbade me to teach you the road, and said that if I disobeyed her, she would never see me again." Night Belle threw herself on Finetta's neck, and so did Love Blossom. They caressed her so tenderly, that she could not help taking them back with her to the King and Queen's house.

Their majesties were very much surprised to see the princesses again. They talked about them all night, and the youngest, who was not named Fine Ear for nothing, heard them making a new plot, and saying that the next day the Queen would begin the campaign. She ran to wake her sisters; "Alas," said she to them, "we are lost, the Queen means to carry us into some desert and leave us there. On your account I have vexed my godmother, I dare not go to find her as I have always done." The sisters were in great trouble, and said to each other, "what shall we do, sister, what shall we do?" At last Night Belle said to the two others, "do not let us be troubled, old Merlusia has not so much skill that there is not any left for others; we have only to take along some peas, we will drop them as we walk, and they will mark our path back." Love Blossom thought the expedient an admirable one. They loaded themselves with peas, they filled their pockets with them. As to Fine Ear, instead of taking peas she took her bag

of fine dresses, with the little box of diamonds, and as soon as the Queen called on them to set out, they were all ready.

She said to them, "I dreamed last night there is in a country which I need not name, three fine princes who are waiting to marry you, I am going to carry you there to see if my dream is true." The Queen went first, and her daughters followed after. They dropped the peas, and felt no uneasiness, for they were certain of finding their way back. This time the Queen went farther than she had ever done before, but in the course of a dark night she quitted them, and returned to the King. She got home very tired, and very glad not to have any longer such a large family on her hands.

The three princesses having slept till eleven o'clock in the morning, woke up. Finetta perceived first the absence of the Queen; much as she was prepared for it, she could not help weeping. She trusted more for their return, to her godmother, the Fairy, than to the skill of her sisters. She went to tell them in alarm that the Queen was gone, and they must follow her as quickly as possible. "Hold your tongue little prater," replied Love Blossom, "we can find our way back when we please, you are playing the part of mother in trouble at the wrong time." But when they began to find their way back there was no track nor path, the pigeons, of which there were many in that country, had eaten up the peas. They began to weep and

cry aloud. After they had been two days without eating any thing, Love Blossom said to Night Belle, "have you nothing to eat?" "No," said she. She said the same thing to Finetta. "I have nothing more," said she, "but I have just found an acorn." "Ah, give it to me," said one, "give it to me," said the other, each one wishing to have it. "We shall none of us be satisfied with one acorn divided between three," said Finetta, "let us plant it, another will grow upon it which we can use."

They consented to this, though there was no appearance that a tree would come from it, for there were none in that country, where nothing was to be seen but lettuce and cabbages, of which the princesses ate. If they had been very delicate, they would have died an hundred times. They slept almost always under the open sky, but every morning and evening they went to water their acorn, and said to it, "grow, grow pretty acorn," and soon it began to grow so fast that you could see it. When it was somewhat large, Love Blossom wished to climb it, but it was not strong enough to bear her, she felt it bend under her, and so she came down. Night Belle had the same adventure. Finetta was lighter, and she kept upon it for some time, and her sisters asked, "do you see nothing, sister." She answered, "no, I see nothing." "Ah, it is because the oak is not high enough," said Love Blossom. So they continued to water it and

to say to it, "grow, grow pretty acorn." Finetta never failed to climb it twice a day. One morning when she was upon it, Night Belle said to Love Blossom, "I have found a bag which our sister has concealed from us, what can there be in it?" Love Blossom answered, "she told me it was old laces she was mending, but I believe it is sugar plums." She was always dainty, and wished to look into the bag. There was in it to be sure all the King and Queen's laces, but they served to hide the beautiful dresses of Finetta and the box of diamonds. "Ho, ho, here is a little cheat," cried she, "we will take every thing for ourselves, and put stones in their place." They did so quickly. Finetta returned without perceiving the wickedness of her sisters, for she did not think it best to dress herself in a desert, she thought only of the oak, which was becoming the most beautiful of all trees.

Once she had climbed it, and her sisters, according to their custom, asked her if she saw any thing, and she cried out, "I spy a great house, so beautiful, so beautiful that I cannot describe it, the walls are emeralds and rubies, the roof of diamonds, it is all covered with bells of gold, the weathercocks go and come like the wind." "You speak falsely," said they, "it is not so beautiful as you say." "Believe me," replied Finetta, "I am not a liar, come and see for yourselves, my eyes are all dazzled." Love Blossom mounted the tree. When she saw the castle, she could not keep silence,

Night Belle, who was very curious, did not fail to mount in her turn, she was as much ravished as her sisters. "Certainly," said she, "we must go to this palace, perhaps we shall find there fine princes, who will be too happy to marry us." Though the evening was long, they talked of nothing else but their design, they lay down upon the grass, but when Finetta seemed sound asleep, Love Blossom said to Night Belle, "do you know what is to be done, sister? let us get up and dress ourselves in these rich clothes which Finetta has brought."

"You are right," said Night Belle. So they arose, dressed their hair, powdered themselves, then they put patches of court plaster on their faces, and dressed themselves in the beautiful gold and silver robes, all covered with diamonds.

Finetta did not know how wickedly her sisters had robbed her. She took her bag, with the design of dressing herself, but she was greatly afflicted when she found nothing but pebbles in it. She perceived, at the same time, that her sisters were brilliant as the sun. She wept and complained of the manner in which they had robbed her, but they only laughed at and jeered her. "Is it possible," said she to them, "that you have courage to take me to the castle without my being dressed and ornamented?" "There are no dresses for you," replied Love Blossom, "if you tease us you will only get beaten." "But," urged she, "these dresses

you are wearing are mine, my godmother gave them to me, you have nothing to do with them."

"If you say any thing more," said they, "we will beat you till you die, and we will bury you without any one knowing of it." Poor Finetta took care not to enrage them, she followed them quietly and walked a little behind. She was supposed to be their servant.

The nearer they approached the house, the more wonderful it seemed to them. "Ha," said Love Blossom and Night Belle, "what pleasure we shall have, how we shall feast, we shall set at the King's table, but as for Finetta, she shall wash the dishes in the kitchen, for she is dressed like a slattern, and if any one asks who she is, we will take care not to call her our sister. We will say she is the little cow girl of the village." Finetta, who was fair and sensible, was in despair at this ill treatment. When they came to the door of the castle, they knocked. Immediately a dreadful old woman opened to them, she had only one eye, in the middle of her forehead, but it was larger than five or six common ones; she had such a flat nose, and so horrible a mouth, that she frightened one. She was fifteen feet high and thirty round. "Oh, unfortunate creatures, what brings you here," cried she, "do you not know that this is the castle of the Ogre, and that you would hardly make him one breakfast? But I am better than my husband, come

in, I will not eat you all at once, you shall have the consolation of living two or three days more."

When they heard the Ogress speak thus, they ran away, thinking to save themselves, but a single one of her steps made fifty of theirs. She ran after them and caught them, one by the hair, the others by the neck, and taking them under her arms she threw them all three into the cellar, which was filled with toads and serpents, and where they could only step on the bones of those who had been eaten.

As she meant to eat up Finetta for a salad, she went to look for some vinegar, oil and salt, but she heard the Ogre coming, and finding that the princesses had a very white and delicate skin, she resolved to eat them all alone, and put them quickly under a great tub, where they could only look out through a hole.

The Ogre was six times higher than his wife; when he spoke, the house trembled, and when he coughed, it seemed as if it thundered. He had only one great ugly eye, his hair all stood upright. When the princesses saw him they trembled under the tub, they dared not cry aloud, for fear he should hear them, but they said in a low tone to each other, "he will eat us alive, how shall we save ourselves?" The Ogre said to his wife, "I smell fresh meat, give me some, give me some." "Good," said the Ogress, "you are always smelling fresh meat, it is only a flock of sheep going by." "Oh,

I know," said the Ogre, "I smell fresh meat, I will

look every where for it." "Look," said she, "you will find nothing." "If I find it," said he, "and you are hiding it from me, I will cut off your head to make a ball of."

This threat frightened the Ogress, and she said, "do not be angry, my little Ogrelet, I will tell you the whole truth. Three young girls came along to-day, whom I have taken, but it would be a pity to eat them, for they know how to do every thing. I am old, and ought to take my rest, you see our fine house is very dirty, our bread is not baked, you do not like our soup, and I do not look so handsome as I used to do, because I have killed myself with work. They shall be my servants, I beg you not to eat them now. If you wish to do it some other day, you can."

It was hard for the Ogre to promise not to eat them up that moment. He said, "let me see, I will only eat two." "No, you shall not eat any of them." "Well, I will only eat the smallest." "But," she said, "no you shall not eat either of them." Finally, after many disputes, he promised not to eat them, and she thought, when he is gone hunting I will eat them, and I will tell him they ran away.

The Ogre came out of the cellar, and told her to bring them to him. The poor girls were almost frightened to death. The Ogress comforted them, and when her husband saw them he asked them what they could do. They answered that they knew how to sweep, that they could sew and spin nicely, that they made such good ragouts that people ate the very dishes they were served on. That as to bread, cakes and pies, theirs were sought for a thousand leagues round. The Ogre was dainty, and he said, "well, well, let us set these smart cooks to work." Then turning to Finetta, he said, "but when you heat the oven, how do you tell when it is hot enough?" "Sir," replied she, "I throw some butter into it, and then taste it with my tongue." "Come then," said he, "light the fire." The oven was as large as a stable, for the Ogre and Ogress ate more bread than two armies. The princess made up a terrible fire in it, and when it was burning like a furnace, the Ogre sat by, and while waiting for the new bread, ate a hundred lambs and a hundred roasting pigs. Love Blossom and Night Belle were moulding the paste, when master Ogre called out, "Oh well, is the oven hot?" Finetta answered, "we will see, my Lord." So she threw a thousand pounds of butter on the bottom of the oven, and said to him, "it must be tried with the tongue, but I am too small to do it in this large oven." "I am large enough," said the Ogre, and stooping down he leaned so far forward that he could not get back, and was burned up, bones and all. When the Ogress came to the oven, she was astonished to find a mountain of ashes made out of her husband's bones.

Love Blossom and Night Belle seeing her very much afflicted, comforted her as well as they could, but they feared that her grief would be but too soon appeased, and that her appetite coming back, she would dress them for a salad as she had before thought of doing.

They said to her, "take courage, madam, you will find some king or marquis who will be happy to marry you." She smiled a little, showing teeth longer than a finger. When they saw her in good humor, Finetta said to her, "If you would leave off this horrible bear skin in which you are dressed, and fix yourself in the fashion, we would arrange your hair and make you look like a star." "Let us see," said she, "whether you understand that business, but be sure that if there are any ladies prettier than I am, I will make mince meat of you." Therefore the three princesses took off her cap, and began to comb and dress her hair, amusing her with their gossip, while Finetta took up an axe and coming behind gave her a violent blow, which cut her head from her body.

Never was such rejoicing. They climbed on the top of the house to ring the golden bells, they went into all the chambers, where were pearls and diamonds, and such rich furniture that they almost died with joy. They laughed and sung, nothing was wanting, corn, sweetmeats, fruits and dolls in abundance. Love Blossom and Night Belle lay down in beds of brocade and velvet, and they said

to each other, "we are richer than our father was before he lost his kingdom. But we should like to have some gentlemen to pay their court to us, no one will come here, this house passes for a cutthroat place, for people do not know that the Ogre and Ogress are dead. We must go to the next city to show our fine clothes, and we shall not be there long before we shall find some fine gentlemen who will be very glad to marry princesses."

As soon as they were dressed they told Finetta that they were going to walk, but that she must stay at home and do the house work and the washing, so that when they came home every thing might be neat and clean, and that if she did not do so they would beat her.

Poor Finetta, who was grieved at heart, stayed at home alone, sweeping, cleaning, washing, without any rest, and crying all the time. "How unfortunate I am," said she, "for having disobeyed my godmother, all sorts of troubles befall me, my sisters have stolen my rich clothes and dress themselves in them. If it had not been for me the Ogre and his wife would have been alive and well, and what advantage do I gain from having killed them. It would have been as well for me to have been eaten up alive." Saying this she cried till she was almost suffocated.

Her sisters soon came home, loaded with Portuguese oranges, sweetmeats and sugar, and they said, "Ah, what a beautiful ball we have come from,

how many people there were there, the King's son was there, he paid us a thousand compliments. Come undress and brush us, for that is your business." Finetta obeyed, and if by chance she wished to make a word of complaint, they fell upon and beat her half to death.

The next day they went again, and came back to relate more wonders. One evening when Finetta was seated near the fire on a pile of ashes, not knowing what to do, she looked in the cracks of the chimney, and found there a little key, so old and dirty that she had all the trouble in the world to clean it. When it was clean, she knew it was of gold, and thought that a golden key must open a beautiful little trunk. She then began to run through the house, trying the key in the locks, and finally she found a remarkable box. She opened it, there were in it dresses, diamonds, laces, linen and ribbons of immense price. She did not say a word of her good fortune, but waited impatiently till her sisters went out the next day. As soon as they were out of sight, she dressed herself, so that she was more beautiful than the sun and moon.

Thus arrayed, she went to the same ball where her sisters were dancing, and though she wore no mask, she was so much improved by her dress that they did not know her. As soon as she appeared in the assembly, a murmur of voices arose, some of admiration, and others of jealousy. She was asked to dance, and surpassed all the ladies in dancing as

she did in beauty. The mistress of the house came to her, and having made her a low curtesy, begged her to tell her what she should call her, that she might never forget the name of such a wonderful person. She replied politely that her name was Cindretta. All the lovers forsook their ladies for Cindretta; there was no poet who did not make rhymes to Cindretta, never was a little name which made so much noise in so short a time. The echoes only repeated the praises of Cindretta. There were not eyes enough to behold her, nor lips enough to praise her.

Love Blossom and Night Belle, who had made at first a great noise in the places where they had appeared, seeing the reception which was given to this new comer, almost died with vexation. But Finetta got out of that trouble with the best grace in the world. It seemed by her air that she was made only to command. Love Blossom and Night Belle, who being accustomed to see their sister in a working dress, had so lost the idea of her beauty that they did not know her at all, they paid their court to Cindretta as all the rest of the world did. When she saw the ball was nearly ended, she went out quickly, and returning home, undressed herself and took her rags again. When her sisters came, "Ah, Finetta, we have just seen," said they, "a young princess who is every way charming, she is not an ugly ape like you, she is white as the snow, redder than the rose, her teeth are pearls, her lips

are coral, she has a dress which is worth more than a thousand pounds, for it is all gold and diamonds, how beautiful she is, how amiable she is." Finetta answered between her teeth, "So, was I, so was I." "What are you humming," said the sisters. Finetta replied in a still lower tone, "so was I." This game went on for some time. There was hardly a day in which Finetta did not change her dress, for the trunk was an enchanted one, and the more there was taken out, the more there came in, and every thing was so exactly in the fashion that the ladies dressed themselves only after her model.

One evening when Finetta had danced more than she commonly did, and when she retired rather late, wishing to make up for lost time and reach home a little before her sisters, as she was walking with all her might, she dropped one of her slippers, which was of red velvet, all embroidered with pearls. She tried to find it in the road, but the night was so dark that her labor was in vain. She returned home with a shoe on one foot, and one bare foot.

The next day Prince Cheeryble, the King's eldest son, as he was going to hunt, found Finetta's slipper. He picked it up, looked at it, admired the small size and neatness of it, turned it round and round, kissed it and carried it away with him. From that day he refused food; he became thin and altered, as yellow as a quince, and sad and low spirited. The King and Queen, who loved him

desperately, sent him every day fresh game and sweetmeats, but he cared for none of them. He looked at them, and said not a word when the Queen spoke to him. They sent every where for doctors, even to Paris and London. When they arrived they visited the prince, and after having considered his case three days and three nights, they came to the conclusion that he was in love, and that he would die if a remedy could not be found.

The Queen, who loved him to folly, wept till she almost turned into water, at not being able to discover her whom he loved, that she might be persuaded to marry him. She carried the most beautiful ladies into his chamber, he would not deign to look at them. Finally she said to him, "my dear son, your grief will destroy you, for you love and you hide from us your sentiments, tell us whom you would have, and we will give her to you if she is only a simple shepherdess."

The prince, emboldened by the promise of the Queen, drew the slipper from under his pillow, and having shown it to her, "Here is, madam," said he, "the cause of my illness. I found this little plump, delicate pretty slipper as I was going to hunt, I will never marry any one whom this slipper does not fit." "Ah, well, my son," said the Queen, "do not afflict yourself, we will cause her to be sought for." She went to tell the King this news. He was greatly surprised, and commanded that it should be announced with drums and trumpets, that all the

girls and women should come and try on the slipper, and that she whom it should fit should marry the prince. All having heard this proclamation prepared their feet with baths, pastes and pommades. They went in crowds to try on the slipper, and the more there came for nothing, the more was the disease of the prince increased.

Love Blossom and Night Belle dressed themselves one day so fine that any one might be astonished. "Where are you going?" said Finetta. "We are going to the great city," said they, "where the King and the Queen live, to try on the slipper which the King's son has found, for if it fits either of us he will marry her and we shall be Queens." "And I," said Finetta, "may not I go?" "You are a silly goose," said they, "go water our cabbages, you are good for nothing else."

Finetta thought she too would put on her fine clothes, and that she would go and make the same trial with the others, for she had some little suspicion that she might take a good part in it. But her trouble was that she did not know the way, the ball where she had danced was not in the great city. She dressed herself magnificently; her robe was of blue satin, all covered with stars and diamonds, she had a sun on her head, a full moon on her back, and every thing about her shone so brightly that one could not look at it without his eyes twinkling. When she opened the door to go out, she was very much astonished to find the pretty

Spanish horse who formerly carried her to her godmother. She caressed him and said, "Welcome my little pony, I am obliged to my godmother Merlusia." He stooped down, and she seated herself upon him like a nymph. He was all covered with golden bells and ribbons, his housing and bridle were of great value, and Finetta looked thirty times more beautiful than the fair Helen.

The Spanish horse went lightly; his bells said "ding, ding, ding ding." Love Blossom and Night Belle having heard them, turned round and saw him coming, but at that moment what was their surprise. They discovered the rider to be Finetta Cindretta. They were all muddy, their fine dresses were covered with dirt. "Sister." cried Love Blossom, speaking to Night Belle, "I protest to you here is Finetta Cindretta." The other cried out in the same manner, and Finetta passed near them, her horse spattered them, and covered them with a mask of mud. The horse began to laugh, and said to them, "your highnesses, Cindretta despises you as much as you deserve," then shooting by like an arrow they were out of sight in a moment. Night Belle and Love Blossom looked at each other. "Are we dreaming," said they, "who can have furnished Finetta with a dress and a horse? What a wonder, fortune favors her, she is going to try on the slipper, and we shall have our trouble for nothing."

While they were falling into despair, Finetta reached the palace. As soon as she was perceived, every one thought she must be a Queen, the guards presented their arms, the drums beat, the trumpets sounded, the doors were opened, and those who had seen her at the ball went to meet her, saying, "make way, make way, it is the fair Cindretta, the wonder of the world."

She entered with this cavalcade into the chamber of the dying prince. He threw his eyes upon her, and remained charmed, wishing that she might have a foot small enough to put on the slipper. She put it on immediately, and displayed the mate to it, which she had brought for the purpose. At the same time the people shouted, "Long live the princess Cheeryble, long live the princess who is to be our Queen." The prince rose from his couch and came to kiss her hands. She found him handsome and full of wit. He made her a thousand compliments. The King and Queen were summoned; they ran in haste, and the Queen took Finetta in her arms, called her daughter and little one, and her little Queen, making her the richest presents, which however were exceeded by those of the King. They fired cannon; violins, pipes, every thing was played, and nothing was talked of but dancing and rejoicing.

The King, the Queen, and the prince besought Cindretta to marry the latter. "No," said she, "I

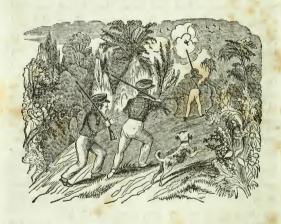
must first tell you my story," which she did in four words. When they discovered she was born a princess, there was a new joy, they almost died of it, but when she told them the name of the King her father, and the Queen her mother, they discovered that it was themselves who had conquered their kingdom, they announced it to her, and she declared she would not consent to the marriage with the prince until they restored his kingdom to her father. This they promised to do, for they had more than a hundred kingdoms, and one more or less was no great affair.

Meantime Night Belle and Love Blossom arrived at the palace. The first news they heard was that Cindretta had put on the slipper. They did not know what to say or what to do. They wished to turn back without seeing her, but when she knew that they were there, she caused them to be brought in, and instead of making faces at them and punishing them as they deserved, she went to meet them, and embracing them tenderly, presented them to the Queen, saying to her, "Madam, here are my sisters, I beg you to love them." They were so confused at Finetta's goodness that they could not speak a word. She promised them that they should return to their kingdom, which the King was about to restore to their family. At these words they fell on their knees before her, weeping for joy.

The wedding festivities were the most splendid

which were ever seen. Finetta wrote to her godmother, and put her letter with splendid presents on the pretty Spanish horse, begging her to find the King and Queen and to tell them her good fortune, and that they had only to return to their own kingdom when they pleased.

The Fairy Merlusia acquitted herself very well of this task. The father and mother of Finetta returned to their Kingdom, and her sisters grew much better girls, and at last became Queens.



## THE THREE BRAVE KNIGHTS OF ROLAND.

TRANSLATED, WITH ALTERATIONS, FROM THE GERMAN OF MUSAEUS.

There was once a famous warrior named Roland. He had conquered his enemies in a great many battles, but at last his fortune forsook him, and after a bloody combat he was found dead upon the field. His three trusty followers bitterly lamented his death, but now that they had no one upon whom it was their duty to attend, they turned their backs on the bloody scene of their master's misfortune, and went forward to see what might next befall them.

After they had traveled all day, and all night, and all the next day, and had seen no place where they could ask for food, and shelter, they saw at a distance a light, and finding it proceeded from a crack in a rock, which formed the entrance to a cavern, they knocked and asked for admittance. After considerable delay, an opening was made, and they were admitted to the cavern by an old woman who was frightfully ugly. She received them very ungraciously, but after a good deal of scolding, consented to give them food and lodging, provided they would stay for three days and three nights, and during that time do every thing she told them to do, without asking any questions, or making any objections. The old woman was very disagreeable,

and the cavern was very uninviting, but the Knights were hungry, and tired, and at last they consented. They stayed the three days and the three nights, and observed her orders exactly in every thing. She in return provided them with food and lodging, and at the end of the time told them, they might depart in peace. But before they left her, Sarron, who was the wisest of the three, said to her, "it is not the custom of our country to suffer guests to depart without some present, we have served you without thanks or wages; you have scolded and vexed us for a bit of bread and a cup of water. Have we not fed the fire under your kettle, and brought back to you your house companion, the black cat, who had run away from you? Shall we have nothing for this and the other important services we have rendered you ?"

The old mother Druidess, seemed to think the matter over. Like other old women, she was of rather a stingy nature, and not very fond of giving things away; but she had taken a fancy to the young men, and she seemed inclined to listen to the request. "Let us see," said she, "whether I can find something, by which each of you can remember me."—So saying, she tripped into her rubbish chamber, and searched about there for a long time, opened and shut chests, and rattled her keys as if she had a city with an hundred gates under her keeping. After a long delay she made her appearance, carrying something hidden in her apron, and

turning to the wise Sarron, she said, "Who shall have what I hold in my hand?" He answered, "Andiol, the sword-bearer." She drew out a rusty copper penny, and said, "take it, and tell me who shall have what I hold in my hand?" The Knight, who was not much pleased with his present, said angrily, "he who will may take it, what do I care?" The Druidess said, "who shall have it?" He then pointed to Amarin, the shield-bearer; and she gave him a dinner napkin of fine damask, nicely washed and folded. Sarron kept on the watch, and hoped to get the best, but he received nothing but the thumb of an old leather glove, for which he was greatly laughed at by his companions.

The three companions now went their way, taking a cold farewell of the old woman, without thanking her for her paltry presents. They felt disposed to say some not very civil things to her; but they felt afraid of her magic power, of which they had had some proofs during their stay in her cavern. After they had gone some distance, Andiol began to complain that they had not fared better in the cave of the Druidess. "Did you not hear, comrades," said he, "how the hag searched about in her plunder shop, to find what she has sent us off with. Her chests were undoubtedly full of riches and treasures. If we had been wise, we should have got possession of her magic rod, without which she can do nothing; we might then have pushed forward into her treasury, and taken,

as the soldiers do, after a battle, what we pleased, and not have suffered ourselves to be fooled by an old woman."

The angry Knight talked long in this manner, and concluded by taking out his rusty copper, and throwing it away in a rage. Amarin followed the example of his companion, he swung his napkin over his head, and said, "what do I want of a napkin in the wilderness, where we have nothing to eat; if we were seated at a plenteous table, a napkin would be of use." He threw it away as he said these words, and the wind took it and blew it toward a bramble bush, where it was caught. The discreet Sarron, however, suspected some hidden virtue in these despised gifts, and blamed the thoughtlessness of his companions, who only looked at the outside of things; he preached, however, to dull ears. But they could not persuade him to rid himself of his unpromising glove thumb; on the contrary, he tried every way to discover some virtue in it. He drew it on the thumb of his right hand without any effect; he then changed it to the left; and in this way they proceeded on for some time. Suddenly Amarin paused and said in astonishment, "where has friend Sarron stopped, he is surely going to pick up what we have thrown away." Sarron heard these words in surprise. A cold sweat came over him, and he could hardly conceal his joy, for the secret of the thumb was now revealed to him. His comrades stopped to

await him, but he walked briskly some paces forward, and when he was at a little distance, he cried out, "lazy fellows, what keeps you behind." The listening friends heard the voice of their companion in front, when they had supposed him to be behind them. They doubled their speed, and ran hastily past him without perceiving him. He was now greatly pleased, for he was certain that the thumb made him invisible. He kept along for some time without explaining the matter to his friends, till they began to fear that he had fallen from some rock into the valley and broken his neck, and that it was his spirit which was now floating near them.

Tired at last of this sport, Sarron again made himself visible, and informed his wondering companions of the virtue of his thumb, and rebuked them for their thoughtlessness in throwing away their presents. After they had recovered from their surprise, they ran back to regain the possession of the despised gifts of the Druidess. Amarin shouted aloud, as he saw in the distance the napkin, which the bramble bush, notwithstanding the efforts of the wind to take it away, had held faster than many a chest of deposit, with all its locks and keys, holds the inheritance of the orphan. It was more trouble to find again in the grass the rusty copper; but interest and avarice, gave the searching owner argus eyes, and served him as a wishing rod to conduct his steps, to the place where his treasure lay hidden. A high leap in the air, and a loud cry of joy announced the fortunate discovery of the rusty copper.

The traveling companions had become very tired with their long walk, and sought the shade of a forest tree to hide them from the piercing rays of the sun; for it was noon, and hunger began to remind them that it was near the hour when its claims were usually attended to. Notwithstanding this, the three adventurers were very gay, their hearts swelled with hope, and the two who had not yet discovered the power of their presents, were making every attempt to discover it. Andiol laid his little property together, added to it the copper, and began to count, forwards, backwards, from right to left, from left to right, from above, from below, without finding any peculiar virtue in his penny. Amarin had placed himself on one side, and having tied his napkin respectfully to his button hole, said his Benedicite with due devotion, and opened wide the folding doors of his capacious bread-basket, and expected nothing less than that a roasted partridge should fly into his mouth; but these proceedings were much too awkward to set the magic napkin to work; so he returned to his companions to await what would happen.

When Amarin joined his friends again, Sarron in a joking manner pulled his napkin from his hand, opened it on the grass under the tree, and cried, "here comrades, the table is spread, let the power of the napkin now place upon it a well

cooked ham, and white bread." Scarcely had he spoken these words, than nice white biscuit showered down from the tree upon the cloth; and at the same time an old fashioned deep dish appeared, in which was a fine boiled ham. Astonishment, and a desire to eat formed a singular contrast in the faces of the hungry table companions, but hunger overpowered every other feeling, and they fell to work without hesitation, and did not speak a word till the last scrap of meat was picked from the bone.

Hunger was fully silenced, but its twin brother, thirst, announced his presence, which was the less remarkable as Sarron had observed that the ham was somewhat salt. The impatient Andiol began to express his discontent at this half meal, as he called it.

"He who feeds me without drink,"
Deserves but slender praise, I think,"

said he, and added several rude remarks about the wonderful powers of the napkin. Amarin, who did not like to have his property underrated, took the cloth by the four corners to put it away, with the dish; but when he placed his hand upon it, the dish and the ham bone had vanished. "Brother," said he, "if you will be my guest in future, 'take what my table offers, and seek for the relief of your thirst a cooling spring, as for drink, that comes from another page,'" and as the proverb says,

"Where a Bake-house you espy, There you find no Brewery." "Well remarked," answered the cunning Sarron, "let us see what your other page says." He then took the napkin, and spread it with the other side up on the grass, with the wish that the spirit in waiting would give them a good pitcher of water, with glasses to their need, and in a moment every thing was before them which they wanted, to enable them to quench their thirst.

The young men were now so happy, they would not have exchanged places with the Emperor Charles upon his throne. Even Andiol, the faultfinder, did not neglect to do justice to the virtues of the napkin; and if the property had been for sale, he would willingly have given for it the rusty copper with all its unknown virtues. This however, became of more value to him than ever, and he was constantly handling it to try to discover its good qualities. He drew it out to examine the stamp upon it, every trace of which, however, was effaced, he turned it over to examine the other side. That was the right method to invite the copper to display its powers. When he found on that side too that there was neither image nor superscription, and was about to put up the penny, he found underneath the wonderful copper a gold piece of equal size and thickness. He repeated the operation by way of experiment, two or three times, without being observed by his companions, and found the manœuvre successful. With unrestrained joy, Andiol, the sword-bearer, rose from his seat on the grass,

sprung like a deer around the tree, and cried as loud as he could, "comrades I have it, I have it," and then concealed from them no part of his wonderful process. In the first flame of his enthusiasm. he proposed that they should immediately return and seek the benevolent mother Druidess, and throw themselves at her feet, and thank her for her goodness. A similar desire filled them all. They gathered their things together, and took their way back, whence they came. But either their eyes were bewildered, or their memories failed them, or the Druidess purposely concealed herself from them; it was impossible for them to find any trace of the grotto, though they had crossed the Pyrenees, and the mountain where they had met with their adventures was far behind them, before they remarked that they had lost their way, and found themselves on the road to the kingdom of Leon.

After a consultation it was decided that they should follow this route, and take the lead of their own noses. The happy trio saw now that they were in possession of the most remarkable gifts; that if they did not insure exactly the greatest happiness in the world, yet they formed the foundation for the fulfillment of every wish. The old leathern glove thumb, unsightly as it was, had all the virtues of the celebrated ring, which was formerly possessed by Gyges; the rusty copper was as good and useful as the purse of Fortunatus; and the napkin was equal in virtue to the most celebrated magic talis-

mans ever known. To secure to each other the enjoyment of these glorious presents, in all their necessities, the three companions made an agreement never to separate from each other, and to use their goods in common. Meantime, each one, as is usual, thought the virtues of his own article the greatest. The wise Sarron maintained, that his thumb united in itself all the powers of the other two,—it allows me to go into the houses of plenty, and open cellars and kitchens, I enjoy the privileges of parlor flies, that of eating with the King from his own spoon, without any one preventing me. I can empty the caskets of the rich, and make the treasures of Hindostan my own.

Conversing in this way they arrived at Astorga, where King Garsias, of Upper Arabia, held his court, after his marriage with the Princess Urraca, of Arragonia, as celebrated for her coquetry, as for her beauty. The court was very splendid, and every thing magnificent and glorious, was to be found there. In the Pyrenean forests, the desires and wishes of the three wanderers were moderate, and circumscribed; they enjoyed the gifts of the napkin; and whenever they came to a shady tree, they spread it out, and kept open table. Six meals a day at least, they found necessary, and there was no kind of dainty with which they were not supplied. But on entering a royal city, new feelings were aroused in their bosoms; they made great plans of improving their talents, and forcing themselves above the mass of the people to the station of lords. They all were smitten with the charms of the Princess Urraca, and thought her favor would help them greatly to advance their fortunes. These feelings created a jealousy of each other in their hearts; their bond of union was broken. They separated from each other, with only one condition, that no one should betray the secret of the others.

Andiol, to go before his rivals, put his pocket mint immediately into operation; he shut himself up in his solitary chamber, and was never tired of turning over the copper to fill his purse with gold pieces. As soon as he was well supplied, he established himself as a great Knight; appeared at court, took an office, and soon by his splendor drew the eyes of all Astorga upon him. Curiosity inquired of what family he was, but he maintained on this point a mysterious silence, and allowed the wise to guess; yet he did not contradict the report that his father was a man of high rank, and he called himself Childeric, the son of Glory.

Meantime the great pomp in which Andiol lived, and the profusion of money which he scattered about, attracted the attention of the Queen, who, beside being coquetish, was very fond of money. She felt desirous to know something more of a man who spent his riches in such an extravagant manner. He on his part omitted no effort to gain her attention, and soon succeeded in making himself a favorite. He gave every day feasts, tournaments,

games, dinners, and made himself of great importance at court. Whatever wish was uttered by the Queen, was immediately fulfilled by the favorite. On occasion of a hunting party which Andiol arranged in honor of his royal mistress, she expressed a wish before it took place, that the forest should be changed into a splendid park, with grottos, fish ponds, cascades, fountains, baths of Parisian marble, palaces, and colonades. Immediately many thousand hands were employed, to execute the great plan of the Queen, and improve upon it if possible. If things had gone on so much longer, the whole kingdom would have been changed; a mountain would have stood in the place of a plain; where the farmer ploughed, she desired to fish, and where boats floated, she wanted to ride races. The rusty copper was as little tired of producing so much money, as the inventive lady in using it; her only desire was to exhaust the means of the obstinate spendthrift, and bring him to ruin, that she might be rid of him.

While Andiol was carrying on matters in such a shining way at court, Amarin was fattening upon the virtues of his napkin; but envy and jealousy soon became the sauce to his food. "Am I not," said he, "as brave a Knight as Andiol, did I not serve the old Druidess as faithfully for the three days, and three nights? Why did she divide her gifts so unequally? He has all, and I have nothing. I am suffering in the midst of plenty. I have no

clothes for my back, nor any money in my purse. He lives more gloriously than a Prince, shines at the court, and is a favorite with the fair Urraca."

He suddenly folded up his napkin, put it in his pocket, and went to walk in the market place, just as the King's own cook was receiving a public whipping, because he had given the King an indigestion, by a badly prepared dish. When Amarin heard of this, it came into his mind that in a country where so much was thought of cookery, without doubt the office of cook would be well paid. He immediately walked off to the royal kitchen, offered his services as a traveling cook, and requested that an hour's time should be given him to exhibit his skill, in any way which might be required.

The kitchen department at Astorga, was acknowledged to be of the highest importance in regard to the weal or woe of the state,—for the good or bad humor of the rulers depended in a great measure on the good or bad state of their stomachs. It was therefore a very reasonable principle to go as carefully to work in the choice of a royal cook, as in that of a prime minister. Amarin, whose outward appearance was not very attractive, (for he had very much the look of a vagabond,) was forced to use all his powers of eloquence, that is his boasting, to cause him to be received as an aspirant for the office of cook; nothing but the bold and assured manner in which he spoke of his art in-

duced the master of the kitchen to allow him to try his skill upon a sucking pig, in high flavor, in the preparation of which the most experienced cooks often fail. As he asked for the ingredients to prepare this dish, he betrayed such gross ignorance about it, that the whole kitchen troop could not help laughing. He paid no attention to this, however, but shut himself up in a separate kitchen. kindled for appearance sake a great fire, silently spread out his napkin, and wished for the required dish to appear, prepared in the best manner. Immediately the delicate article came in the same old fashioned dish. Amarin took a little in a silver spoon, and handed it to the head taster for his approval. He took a little on his tongue, for fear he should injure his teeth by tasting ill-prepared food. But to his surprise, he found the sauce most delicious, and confessed it to be fit for the royal table. The King on account of his illness, had little appetite; yet scarcely had the odor of the glorious pig, in high flavor, reached him, than his brow cleared up, and the horizon of it indicated fair weather.

He desired to taste it; he emptied one plate after another, and would have finished the whole pig, had not a feeling of regard towards his wife moved him to send her the remains of it. The monarch felt his spirits so much raised by the good dinner, he felt so refreshed and so active, that he consented to work with his minister, and even to settle some difficult affairs which had been long put off. The

spring of such a glorious revolution was not forgotten. The skillful Amarin was clothed in fine garments, he was conducted from the kitchen to the throne, and after a long compliment upon his talents, he was appointed first royal cook, with the rank of Field Marshal.

In a short time his glory reached the highest pinnacle. He excelled all the most celebrated cooks who ever figured in ancient or modern times; nothing was too much for his art, and so well were his services repaid, that he rose to the post of Master of the Royal Kitchen, and at last to that of Major Domo.

Such a shining meteor in the kitchen horizon, could not fail to attract the attention of the Queen, Until now she had had unbounded control over her husband, and led him where she pleased; but she feared to lose her power through the influence of this new comer and favorite. She had been in the habit of maintaining her control over her husband, by finding out for him dainty soups, and ragouts, which always had the effect of putting him in good humor. But since the revolution in the kitchen. which had been brought about by Amarin's napkin, the cookery of the Queen had lost all its reputation. She once had the boldness to try to rival the major domo, in the preparation of one of his dishes; but she failed entirely. Instead of obtaining a victory over Amarin, her dish was carried off untasted, and fell a prize to the waiters, and lacqueys. She exhausted her invention in the preparation of costly meats; Amarin's art could be excelled by nothing but itself. Under these circumstances, the Queen laid a plan, by art and flattery, to win the new major domo over to her side, and find out if possible in what his art lay. He could not help being pleased with the attentions of such a handsome woman, and a Queen, too; and he promised her on the King's next birth day to prepare her something in his own way; this was most successful, and the Queen called upon him whenever she wished; and when he assisted her, nothing could exceed the King's delight at the taste of her dishes.

The two soldiers were now playing the most shining parts at court. Though fate had brought them so near together, that they frequently dined at the same table, and both shared the favor of the fair Urraca; yet according to their agreement, they appeared as strangers to each other, and allowed nothing to be known of their former companionship. Neither of the two knew where the wise Sarron had vanished. He had by means of his glove thumb kept himself entirely out of sight, and enjoyed the advantages of it in a way, which though it could not be seen, fulfilled all his wishes. He, as well as the others, had been charmed with the fair Queen, and had desired to make himself a favorite of hers. Since he had separated from his companions, he had gone invisibly from one of the royal pair to the other; he enjoyed as before Amarin's napkin, and Andiol's purse. He filled his stomach with the remains of the table, and his pocket with the overflowings of Andiol's treasury, without being observed by either. His first care was to dress himself in a romantic costume, and throw himself in the way of the Queen, and make her acquaintance. For this purpose he put on a sky blue satin coat, with rose-colored under dress, like an Arcadian shepherd, leading his flock at a masquerade. In this dress, aided by the most exquisite perfumery, by the help of his wonderful gift, he visited the Queen in her private apartments.

The Queen was just taking her afternoon nap, when she was roused by hearing a step in her room; she raised her head, and asked the lady in waiting, whose office it was to keep off the flies with a bunch of peacock's feathers, "who had just entered the apartment?" The lady in waiting set her peacock's feathers in motion again, and assured her there was no third person there, it must be a dream of her highness. The Princess was certain she had not been mistaken, and commanded the lady to go into the ante-chamber, and make some inquiries. While she left her stool to fulfill this command, the fly-flapper began to move of itself, and the Queen felt a cooling breeze, which breathed the odor of flowers, and the perfume of amber. At this appearance the Queen was seized with fear and trembling; she sprang from her sofa, and was about to fly, when she felt herself held back by an invisible power, and perceived a voice which whispered to her, "Fairest of mortals, fear nothing, you are under the care of the powerful Fairy King called Damogorgon. Your charms have drawn me from the upper regions of the air into the lower atmosphere of the earth, to do homage to your beauty." These words quieted the fears of the Queen, and when the lady returned, she was dismissed, and the Queen had a very pleasant talk with her Fairy lover.

These conversations were frequently repeated; and at last Sarron appeared to the Queen in his fanciful shepherd's dress. But as he was invisible for the most of the time, and attended the Queen wherever she went, he found she flattered his old companions, and treated them with as much intimacy as she did him. This made him feel vexed, and jealous, and he resolved to play a little trick upon his old companion, Amarin.

At a feast, where the Queen regaled her husband and the whole court, a covered dish was borne in, for which King Garsias saved his whole great appetite. Though it was one of the fruits of the charmed napkin, which now was working for the good of the Queen, the master of the kitchen had proclaimed aloud, that the cookery of the Queen this time so far excelled his own, that he should keep back his usual part of the preparations. This flattery pleased the Queen so much, that she repaid the major domo with the most delighted looks,

which cut the invisible Sarron, who was all the while looking on, to the heart. "Well and good," said he to himself, "you shall not taste a morsel of it." As the waiter raised the cover, to the astonishment of all the attendants, the dainty contents of it vanished, and the dish was clean and empty. The greatest confusion and murmuring was heard among the waiters; the carver in terror dropped his knife on the floor, and told the steward; he ran to the head taster, and brought the jobs post, who whispered it immediately in the ear of his master; whereupon the major domo arose with an anxious, official look, and acquainted the Queen in a low tone with the melancholy news; she at once turned pale, and called for Cologne water,

The King meantime turned with intense curiosity to the servant, who was to bring him carefully the expected dainty. He looked sometimes to the right, sometimes to the left, after the dish, which he was awaiting; but seeing the amazement of all the court servants, and how all were in their confusion stumbling over each other, he asked "what was the matter?" At which the Queen summoning all her courage, announced to him in a sad tone, that an accident had happened, and that her dish could not appear. This unpleasant information the hungry monarch, as may reasonably be imagined, took much to heart; he rose with vexation from his chair, and retired to his apartment, during which hasty retreat, every one took care to

keep out of his way. The Queen did not stay long, but retired to her room herself, to call poor Amarin to a reckoning.

Immediately the amazed major domo, who in his fear at the vanished dish, and the displeasure the King had shown upon the occasion, had kept out of sight, was ordered into the Queen's presence; and while he in despair and anguish lay at the feet of his haughty mistress, she addressed him emphatically in these words:

"Thankless traitor, do you value so little the favor of a Queen, that you dare to bring upon her the displeasure of her husband, and expose her to the derision of the whole court? Did you repent your promise to prepare at my order the most glorious of dishes, and cause it to vanish, at the moment I was about to win the praise and admiration of all? Reveal to me directly the secret of your art, or expect the punishment for practicing magic, which you shall tomorrow receive, by suffering death in a lingering fire at the stake."

This severe declaration, sent his blood hastily back to his heart, and he thought he could in no other way escape the rage of the Queen, than by a true explanation of the origin of his skill in cookery. When his gossiping tongue was once set in motion, and he had raised the suspicions of the Queen that the costly ragout must have been stolen away out of envy, he could no longer keep secret the adventures in the Pyrenees; nor the generosity of the

Druidess. By this true narration the Queen arrived at once at the long wished for knowledge of the characters of her three favorites; and immediately resolved to get possession herself of their magic talismans.

As soon as the thoughtless prater had talked himself out, and had proved that he had not intended any insult to the Queen, she began to speak, and said with an angry look, "miserable wretch, do you think to save yourself and deceive me with a paltry falsehood? Show me the wonders of your napkin, or dread my anger."

He drew out his napkin, spread it, and asked the Queen what she would have placed upon it. She ordered a ripe nutmeg, in the green shell. Amarin gave orders to the spirit of the napkin, the oldfashioned dish appeared, and the Queen saw the ripe nutmeg in the shell, on a green branch, which Amarin on his knees offered to her surprised eyes. But instead of taking it, she seized the napkin, and threw it into an open box, which she shut hastily. The major domo finding himself thus betraved, sank fainting upon the floor at seeing himself deprived of all his earthly fortune. The cunning thief, however, gave a loud cry, and when her servants entered, "This man," said she, "has been siezed with a falling sickness, take care of him, but never let him enter my presence again; let me not suffer a second fright from him."

The wise Sarron, with all his wisdom, had this

time acted indiscreetly in playing his companion this malicious trick. In transport he swallowed gluttonously the stolen dainty, and forgot the golden rule, "Beware of excess." He had no sooner done so than he felt uneasy in body and mind. He left the table, and in search of the fresh air walked out into the park. The Queen had the day before invited him to make her a visit that evening, which he did not omit to do. She was in uncommonly good humor, and entertained her friend in the most delightful manner. At last the crafty lady offered him a glass of wine, which he had no sooner tasted than he fell into a sound slumber, for there was a sleeping draught mixed with it. As soon as he began to snore, the artful woman took possession of his glove thumb of invisibility; ordered her servants to carry out the King of the Fairies, and lay him in the corner of the street in the open air; where on the stone pavement he slept off his heavy draught. The Queen was so delighted, that she could not sleep for joy; her thoughts were all turned to discover some way in which she might get possession of the third treasure.

Scarcely had the first rays of morning gilded the roofs of the Royal palaces of Astorga, than the restless Queen called up her nurse, and said to her, "Send a messenger to Childeric, the son of Glory, and order him to go with me to mass, and add to this favor, offerings for the poor." The favorite of fortune, and of the fair Urraca, was still turning on

his soft bed, when the Queen's messenger arrived. He yawned aloud, as he received him, but caused himself to be dressed by his servants, and went to court, where the high chamberlain looked cross at him for taking from him his usual office. With solemn pomp the procession advanced to the royal church, where the Archbishop with his attendants was celebrating a high office. The people had already collected in great numbers, to gaze on the glorious procession. The fair Urraca, and still more the rich train of her dress, which was borne up by six ladies of the court, excited universal astonishment. A multitude of beggars, the lame, the halt, blind, cripples and wooden legs surrounded the pompous procession, beset the Queen on the way and begged for alms, which Andiol threw out from his purse on the right and left, in the greatest profusion. An old blind grey headed man distinguished himself by the violence with which he pressed forward, and by the sad cry with which he asked charity. He never left the side of the Queen, held his hat up all the time, and prayed for some small gift. Andiol from time to time threw him a piece of gold, but before it reached the blind man, some thievish neighbor siezed it, and he began his supplications anew. The Queen seemed to be disturbed by the unhappy old man, she seized suddenly his purse from Andiol, and gave it into the hand of the blind person. "Take," said she, "good old man

the blessing which a noble Knight permits me to bestow on you, and pray for the good of his soul."

Andiol, affrighted at this royal extravagance displayed at his cost, lost all his self-possession, and made a motion with his hand to recover his purse; but this apparent meanness raised a shout of laughter among the followers of the Queen. Great as his vexation was, he bore the burden of it, while the Queen honored him by leaning on his arm in the cathedral, and he concealed his anxiety as well as he could till mass was over.

He then looked diligently round, and inquired after the blind beggar, promising a great reward for an old coin which was a keepsake, and which was in the purse, and which he valued highly as a curiosity. But no one could tell where the beggar had vanished; as soon as the purse was in his hand, he had disappeared, and had not since been seen. The fact was, the pretended blind man went directly to the Queen's ante-chamber, where he was awaiting her return, for he was one of her servants, whom she had disguised as a blind beggar, in order to get possession of the wonderful copper, which to her great joy she found in the purse.

The artful woman now by her craftiness found herself in possession of the magic talismans of the three Knights, who sighed and groaned inconsolably over their losses; and in their despair tore their hair and beard. But she triumphed in her successful arts, and grieved little for the fate of the un-

fortunate wights. In the first place, she made the trial whether the talismans would show their productive power in the hands of the present owner. The trial succeeded entirely to her wishes. The napkin gave at her order its dishes; the copper penny vielded ducats; and under the veil of the thumb, she went unseen through the guards in the hall, and into the apartments of her women. With a beating heart she laid plans of splendid scenes; and her favorite idea was to change herself into a real Fairy. What is a Fairy, thought she, but the possessor of one or several magical secrets, whereby she works miracles, which seem to raise her above the lot of mortals: and cannot I with these hidden powers, qualify myself to be one of the greatest of Fairies? Her only remaining wish was to possess a car drawn by dragons, or a span of butterflies; for the way through the air was still not open to her. Vet she flattered herself that this would not be wanting if she could once get admitted to the Fairy convent. She hoped to find some goodnatured sister who might give her such an airy equipage in exchange for some of her wonderful gifts. All night long she thought over what she should do with her newly acquired power. But the new Fairy felt an actual want before she could undertake to set out for adventures. She needed still a well arranged Fairy wardrobe.

With the earliest dawn, which followed a wakeful night, in which her heated fancy had assorted all

the fairy ornaments, from the drooping feather, down to the delicate shoe, all the tailor skill in Astorga was set to work, as if the first masquerade of the season was about to take place. But before this arrangement was completed, something happened which threw all upper Arabia, more especially the fair Uracca, into astonishment.

The long excitement of mind in the fanciful Queen, had at last yielded one night to slumber; when she was suddenly wakened by a martial voice which thundered in her ears, "By the King's orders." An officer of the guard directed her to follow him without delay. The frightened lady fell from the clouds, and did not know what to say or think. She began to expostulate with the guard. But after a vain appeal to the acting power, the Queen was convinced that she was the weaker party, and must obey. "The King's will is my law," said she, "I follow you." As she said this, she went to her trunk to get, as she observed, a cloak to throw over her, and protect her from the night air; but in fact to make use of the thumb, and to vanish suddenly. But the officer had strict orders, and was so impolite as to refuse the fair prisoner this little convenience. Neither prayers nor tears could prevail with the hard-hearted warrior, he surrounded her with his muscular arm, and drew her out of the chamber, of which the justice immediately took possession, and placed every thing in it under seal. Below at the door was a litter

drawn by four mules, in which the weeping Queen was forced to place herself in an undress. The procession with its torches proceeded silently and sadly through the solitary streets like a funeral in the night. It passed the gates, went forward twelve miles to a distant cloister, surrounded with high walls, and deposited the prisoner, dissolved in tears, in a miserable cell, forty steps deep under ground.

King Garsias, since the terrible feast day, in which his favorite food had vanished from the dish, had been in such a horrible humor that it was impossible to approach him; half his ministers and courtiers had fallen into disgrace, and the other half dreading a similar fate, tried all their skill to dispel this hypochondriac humor. The court physician advised an emetic; the chamberlain a matress; the high priest a fast day; the general of the armies a crusade against the Saracens; the master of the hunt, a chase; the court marshal a venison pasty, after the taste of the major domo; as for the latter, after the loss of his napkin, he had been eclipsed more darkly than ever the moon was.

Among these palliatives, the hunting party received the most favor as a means of recreation, which was the least difficult to carry out. The King could not get over the disappearance of the master-piece of cookery; and gave it to be understood, that he was of opinion that this disappearance was not brought about by fair means; he even

expressed some suspicion that his wife had practiced witchcraft to effect the thing. As soon as the enemies of the Queen observed under what aspect the humor of the King regarded the ruler of his will, the cabal neglected nothing which was wanting to effect her ruin; and this was the more easy, because, while the King remained at a hunting lodge, the talent of the napkin, which in Astorga might have been used to conciliate him, could not be brought into action. After the cause had been duly considered by the loafers, court dwarfs, king's fools, chamberlains, body physician, and whoever else had access to the King, the fall of the proud Queen was resolved upon; and the King ordered a secret council of state, by which he caused the sentence of close imprisonment to be decreed, and immediately executed.

A court commission was now diligently employed to search the effects of the Princess, to discover among them as a witness of her magic practices, perhaps some talisman of magic character, or some contract with an evil spirit. All the dresses, and other valuables, and among them the whole Fairy apparatus was examined faithfully. Yet notwithstanding all efforts, dim-sighted justice could discover nothing which seemed to belong to the magic art. The real articles which she had stolen from Rolands' Knights, had such an ordinary and unpromising appearance, that these magic treasures were not thought worth noticing. The invaluable

napkin, which from the frequent use of its owner had become somewhat defaced, was taken by the ignorant justice's clerk for a rag to dry up the black flood from an overturned inkstand; the wonderful glove thumb, the noble vehicle of invisibility, and the rich copper coin, were thrown like useless rubbish among the sweepings. What became of Queen Urraca in the gloomy cloister, forty fathoms under ground, to which she had been banished, whether she was condemned to imprisonment for life, or whether she again saw the light of day; also, whether the three magic secrets were destroyed by moth, rust, or corruption, or whether they were picked from the rubbish, and sweepings to which all earthly goods come at last, the old legends do not tell. Perhaps fortune allowed the plentiful napkin, or the productive penny to fall into the hands of some virtuous poor man, who fed by the sweat of his brow, his starving family, and could only answer with tears when the young ravens cried for food, or perhaps some pining, grieving lover whom the despotism of father or mother had robbed of his lady love, and plunged her in a cloister; had gained in some way possession of the jewel of invisibility, and was able to release his fair one from her close confinement, and unite himself to her for ever. Such events would have been too much unlike the common course of things in this lower world, to be very likely to have happened. The most desirable worldly goods are commonly found in bad hands;

and the possession of fortune is most frequently denied to those who would make a good and reasonable use of it.

After the loss of all the gifts of the generous old Druidess, the owners of them, who had been plundered, silently took their departure from Astorga. Amarin, who without his napkin, could not have filled very successfully the office of head cook, went first; Andiol the son of Glory, soon followed after. As the great ease with which he filled his purse, had given him the usual dislike to labor, which is felt by the luxurious, he was too indolent to turn his penny upon every occasion, he lived upon credit, and only filled his chests when a rainy day came, or when there was no party of pleasure on hand. He now found it impossible to satisfy his creditors, he changed his clothes therefore, and disappeared from the city.

As soon as Sarron awoke from his deathlike sleep, and found that he must cease to perform the part of Fairy king, he slipped quietly away to his lodgings, hunted up his old armor, and made his way as quickly as possible out of the gates.

It happened accidentally that the three Knights of Roland came together again on the road to Castile. Instead of disturbing each other with mutual reproaches, which would not have improved their condition, they submitted with philosophical indifference to their fate. The similarity of it, and their unexpected meeting, renewed immediately their old

companionship, and the wise Sarron observed, "that the golden middle station was most favorable to friendship, which seldom flourished with fortune and great talents."

Hereupon the three companions concluded with one voice to continue their way, to resume their old profession, fight under Castilian colors, and revenge the death of their master Roland upon the Saracens. They found themselves soon at the height of their wishes, in the midst of the battle field, their swords were wet with the blood of the Saracens, and with palms of victory, they died together the death of heroes.



## GLORIOSA,

OR,

## THE ENVIOUS FAIRIES.

THERE was once in Europe a King, who, having reigned in peace some time, felt a desire to travel, and go from one end of his kingdom to the other. His wife accompanied him, and while they were at a castle at a distant part of his estates, a little daughter was born to them, who appeared at the first moment so perfectly beautiful, that the courtiers pronounced her to be fairer than even the most lovely Fairy had ever been, and said she ought to be called Gloriosa, as she would be the glory of the whole land. As the King was called immediately to another part of his dominions to defend it against his enemies, and as his wife wished to go with him they were obliged to leave the little Gloriosa with her governess, and the ladies who attended upon her, behind them in the castle.

The little princess was brought up with much care, and as the war proved to be a very long and cruel one, she had leisure to grow up and improve. Her beauty rendered her famous through all the neighboring country, and nothing else was talked of. At twelve years she might have been taken for a Fairy sooner than for a mere mortal. She had one brother, who came to see her upon a time when

there was a little cessation of the warfare, and they grew very fond of each other.

Meantime the fame of her beauty and the name she bore irritated some of the Fairies against her, and they tried to think of some method by which they could revenge themselves upon her parents, for boasting that she was fairer than the Fairies, and by which they could also destroy a beauty of which they were jealous.

The Queen of the Fairies was not at that time one of those good Fairies who protect virtue, and who take pleasure in doing good. After several ages had passed, since by her great knowledge and her arts she had reached the throne of Fairydom, her beauty was very nearly gone, she became very small, and was known by no other name than that of Dwarfia.

Dwarfia then assembled her council and informed them that she was going to revenge all the beauties of her court, and those who were scattered elsewhere about the world. She said she was going away, and should herself visit and carry off this famous beauty whose charms made so much noise, and caused the rest of the fair sex to be so entirely neglected. No sooner said than done. She set forth, and taking only a plain dress she transported herself to the castle which contained this wonder. She soon made herself familiar there, and engaged the ladies who attended on the princess to receive her

among them, making herself very pleasant and agreeable to them all.

But Dwarfia was seized with great astonishment when she discovered by the force of her art, after having examined the castle, that it had been built by a great magician, and that he had given to it the virtue that from all its enclosures and walks no one could go out except of their own will, and that it was not possible to make use of any sort of charms against the persons who lived in it. This secret was not unknown to the governess of Gloriosa, who, aware of the priceless treasure which was committed to her care, lived without any fear, thinking that no person in the world could take away the young princess, if she did not go out of the castle or the gardens attached to it. She had expressly forbidden her to do so, and Gloriosa, who had already great prudence, had not failed to obey these orders. She had had a thousand lovers who had tried to persuade her to go away with them, but she had never listened to them for a moment.

It did not take Dwarfia long to insinuate herself into the favor of the princess, she taught her to do many kinds of fine work, and when she was doing some work of which she was very fond, she told her pleasant stories, and omitted nothing which could amuse her. They became very intimate and were always seen together.

Dwarfia with all her attention had her mind filled with thoughts of jealousy and revenge, she tried to

discover some method by which she could artfully prevail on Gloriosa to put her foot outside of the castle gates, she was then all ready to strike her blow and carry her off.

One day when she had gone with her into the garden, where the young girls, after having gathered flowers were decorating the head of Gloriosa with the wreaths they had made, Dwarfia opened a little door that looked upon the fields. She went out of it, and made an hundred funny faces, and played a great many tricks which made the princess and the young flock of girls about her laugh heartily, when suddenly the wicked Dwarfia pretended to feel ill, and the next moment dropped down as if she had been faint. Some of the young girls ran to her assistance, Gloriosa among the rest, but scarcely was the unfortunate princess without the fatal door, than Dwarfia started up, seized her with a strong hand, and making a circle with her wand a fog arose, very thick and dark, and when this passed away the ground opened and two moles with rose colored wings came out, drawing an ebony car. Dwarfia placed the princess in it, and ascending it herself, it rose in the air, and moved along with incredible swiftness and was immediately out of sight of the young girls, who by their tears and cries soon announced through the whole castle the loss they had suffered.

Gloriosa recovered from her astonishment only to fall into a still more fearful state. The rapidity with which the car moved had so stunned her, that she almost lost her consciousness. Finally, recovering her senses in a measure she looked down. What was her terror to see beneath only the prodigious extent of the vast ocean. She uttered a piercing cry, but turning round and seeing near her Dwarfia whom she thought such a good friend, she embraced her tenderly and clung fast to her arms, as one does when they would take courage. But the Fairy rudely repulsing her, cried, "Retire, little impertinence, know me to be your mortal enemy, I am Queen of the Fairies, and you shall pay me for the insolence of your beauty and the proud name you bear."

Gloriosa was more alarmed at these words than even if the lightning had fallen at her feet, and was more frightened at them than at the horrible path she was traveling. The car finally stopped in the middle of the court of the most superb palace which was ever seen.

The sight of such a beautiful place cheered the timid princess a little, especially when, on leaving the car, she saw a hundred young beauties, who all came politely to salute the Fairy. Such a smiling abode did not seem to threaten misfortune. She had one consolation, which does not fail to flatter even in a misfortune as great as was hers, she remarked that all these beautiful persons were struck with admiration as they looked at her, and she heard a confused murmur of praise and envy, which pleased her marvelously.

But this moment of vanity lasted but a little while. Dwarfia imperiously ordered that the fine clothes should be taken from Gloriosa, thinking thus to deprive her of a part of her charms. But when her splendid garments were taken from her, the anger of Dwarfia only increased. Her beauty became more apparent, and threw all the Fairies in the world into the shade. She was then dressed in miserable rags, and one might have said that her simple and native beauty triumphed even then; she was never more beautiful. Dwarfia ordered her to be conducted to the place she had prepared for her, and that her task should be given her.

Two Fairies took her, and caused her to pass through the most beautiful and most sumptuous apartments which were ever seen. Gloriosa observed them, and she said to herself, "whatever torments they are preparing for me, my heart tells me that I cannot always be unhappy in this lovely spot."

They then made her descend a great black marble staircase, which had more than a thousand steps, she thought she was going to the very depths of the earth. Finally she reached a little closet lined with ebony, where she was shown a bed made of a little straw, and where there was an ounce of bread and a little water for her supper. From thence she was carried into a large gallery, the walls of which from top to bottom were of black marble, and which received no light except from five jet lamps, which

shed a gloomy light more fitted to alarm than to cheer one. These gloomy walls were hung with spider's webs, the fatality of which was that the more they were taken away the more they multiplied. The two Fairies told the princess that this gallery must be cleaned by daybreak or she would be severely punished, and leaving there a hand ladder, and giving her a birch broom, they told her to go to work, and then took their leave.

Gloriosa sighed, and not knowing the nature of these spider webs, though the gallery was large she courageously resolved to obey. She took her broom and lightly mounted the ladder. But alas, what was her surprise, when thinking to clean the marble and take away the cobwebs, she found they only increased. She worked for some time, but seeing with grief that it was in vain, she threw down her broom, descended from the ladder and seating herself on the lowest round began to weep and bemoan her misfortunes. Her sighs were so constant that her strength was almost exhausted, when raising her head a little her eyes met a strong light. All the gallery was in a moment illuminated, and she saw at her feet a young boy so handsome and agreeable in his appearance that he thought she must be some superior being. He was clad in garments covered with precious stones, but the brightness of his eyes seemed to eclipse the brilliancy of the jewels. This young man knelt and fixed his eves upon her. "Who are you?" said she, as soon

as her astonishment would permit her to speak. "I am Philo," said he "the son of the Fairy Queen, I love you and would gladly help you." Then taking the broom she had put down, he touched the cobwebs and they immediately became cloth of gold of wonderful workmanship, and the light of the lamps became clear and bright. Philo presented a golden key to the princess and said to her, "you will find a lock in the corner of your apartment, open it gently. Farewell, I must retire for fear of being suspected, go to rest, you will find every thing you want." And placing himself on one knee before her, he respectfully kissed her hand.

Gloriosa more astonished at this adventure than at any thing which had happened in the course of the day, returned into her little chamber, and seeking to find this lock of which she had been told and approaching the wall of the room she heard the sweetest voice in the world, which seemed to be uttering tones of grief. She supposed it was some unhappy person, who, like herself, the Fairy wished to torment. She listened carefully. "Alas, what shall I do," said the voice, "I am ordered to change the acorns which are in this bushel measure into oriental pearls." Gloriosa, less surprised than she would have been two hours before, knocked two or three times against the partition, and said aloud, "If there are penalties here, there are miracles also, hope on. But tell me, I pray you, who you are, and I will tell you who I am."

"It is pleasanter to me to reply to you," answered the other, "than to continue my work. I am the daughter of a King, I was born charming. The Fairies were not complimented by my parents on occasion of my birth; you know how cruel they are to those whom they did not take under their protection from the first." "Ah, I know but too well," replied Gloriosa. "I, like you, are beautiful, the daughter of a King, and unfortunate because I am amiable, without owing any thing to them." "We are then companions," said the other. "Every body loved me, and admired me. I was called Desira; all wills were submitted to mine, and all hearts made room for me. One young prince attached himself altogether to me, and I was devotedly fond of him; we were on the point of being forever united to each other, when the Fairies, jealous that I should be so much admired, and thinking that such charms as I had were not their gift, stole me away in the midst of my happiness, and have placed me here in this horrible place. They have told me they would stifle me tomorrow if I have not executed the ridiculous order they have imposed upon me; now tell me who you are." "I have already told you with the exception of my name," replied the princess. "My parents pronounced me fairer than a Fairy, and in token of this idea they called me Gloriosa."

"You must be beautiful," replied the princess Desira, "I long to see you." "And I have a great wish to see you," replied the other. "There is a door which opens here, and I have a little key which perhaps may not be useless to you." Looking round, Gloriosa at last discovered the door. which she pushed, it opened and they saw each other; each was surprised at the marvelous beauty of the other. After they had embraced and said many civil things to each other, Gloriosa began to laugh to see princess Desira constantly rubbing her acorns with a little white stone, as she had been ordered. She told her the task which had been given her, and how she had been assisted to do it. "But who can he be?" said Desira. "I do not know," replied Gloriosa, "but he says he loves me, and if he loves me as he says, he will assist you." Scarcely had she spoken these words when the bushel measure groaned, and shaking the acorns as the oak from which they were gathered might have done, they changed suddenly into the most beautiful pear shaped pearls of the first water; it was one of these of which Queen Cleopatra made such a rich banquet for Mark Anthony.

The two princesses were very much pleased at this change, and Gloriosa, who began to be accustomed to prodigies, took Desira by the hand and went back to her chamber, and finding the corner where the lock was of which she had been told, she opened it with the golden key and entered a chamber, the magnificence of which surprised and affected her, because she saw in it the kindness of her new

and unknown friend. It was strewed with flowers and filled with a delicious odor. At one end of this apartment was a table covered with every thing which could delight the taste, and a fountain of the coolest water bubbled forth its refreshing treasures into a porphyry basin. The young princesses seated themselves in two ivory chairs embellished with emeralds. They ate with a good appetite, and when they had supped the table disappeared, and in place of it arose a delicious bath. Six paces from it appeared a superb toilet, and great golden baskets filled with the most delicate linen. A bed of a singular form and extraordinary richness made part of the furniture of this wonderful chamber, around the sides of which stood orange trees, in golden pots set with rubies. Cornelian pillars supported the roof. These were separated only by large crystal mirrors, which reached from the floor to the ceiling, and consols of rich workmanship were loaded with vases filled with every species of flowers.

Desira was astonished at the good fortune of her companion, and turning towards her she said, "Your friend is very gallant, he has great power and he wishes to do every thing for you, your good fortune is uncommon." A clock, which struck twelve, gave with every stroke the name of Philo. The young friends laid down on the bed, and Gloriosa fell asleep, thinking of her new and wonderful friend.

The next day there was great astonishment in

the Fairy court to see the gallery so richly ornamented, and a bushel of such beautiful pearls. They had thought to punish the princesses, and their cruelty was disappointed. They found them retired each in her little chamber. They called their counsel together again, to devise some new employment, at which they would be overpowered, and they ordered Desira to go to the sea shore and write on the sand, with express orders that what she put there should never be effaced. They commanded Gloriosa to go to the foot of mount Adventurous, to fly to the summit and to bring them a vase filled with water of immortal life. To accomplish this order, they gave her feathers and wax that she might attempt to make wings and perish like Icarus. Desira and Gloriosa looked at each other on hearing these terrible commands, and tenderly embracing they separated, as if bidding each other a last farewell. One was conducted to the sea shore, the other to the foot of Mount Adventurous,

When Gloriosa found herself alone, she took the feathers and the wax, but they did not go well together, and after having worked in vain she turned her thoughts towards Philo. "If you loved me," said she, "you would come again to my assistance." Scarcely had she finished speaking, than she saw him before her eyes, a thousand times more beautiful than he had appeared the night before. "Do you doubt, my love," said he, "nothing is impossible to one who loves you." He then desired her to

throw off a heavy shawl which she wore and her shoes, and having taken his usual reward, a kiss on her hand, he transformed himself suddenly into an eagle. She was somewhat grieved to see him lose his beautiful form, but he placed himself at her feet and spread out his wings so that she easily understood his design. She leaned over him, and encircling his superb neck with her beautiful arm, he rose up gently.

He carried her in this way to the top of the mountain, where she heard strains of delightful harmony from thousands of birds who came to pay homage to the divine bird, by whose aid she had reached this height. The summit of the mountain was a flowery plain surrounded with beautiful cedar trees, in the midst of which was a small stream, which rolled silver waters over sand strewed with shining diamonds. Gloriosa kneeled down; she dipped her hand into this precious water and drank of it. Afterwards she filled her vase. "How I wish Desira had some of this water," said she, turning towards her eagle. Scarcely had she uttered these words when the eagle descended, took one of Gloriosa's slippers, and returning filled it with the water, and went to carry it to Desira, where she was uselessly employed in writing on the sand.

The eagle went back to find Gloriosa, and again taking up his fair burden, "Alas," said she, "what is Desira doing, bring us together." He obeyed,

and they found her writing on the sand, which she had no sooner done than a wave came to efface what she had written. "What cruelty," said the princess to Gloriosa, "to order one to do what cannot be done; to judge by the strange equipage which brought you here, you have succeeded." Gloriosa descended, and touched with the misfortune of Desira, she turned towards her friend, "Show me your power." "Or rather my love for you," replied Philo, taking his ordinary form. Desira, at sight of his beauty of face and form, showed by her countenance the surprise and pleasure she felt.

"Do what I ask you," said Gloriosa. Philo wishing to relieve her trouble, said, "Read," and disappeared like a flash of lightning.

At the same moment a wave broke at the feet of Gloriosa, and on retreating a table of brass became visible, set in the sand, as if it had been there from all eternity, and would remain there till the end of the world, and while they were looking at it, the letters deeply graven in were formed, which composed the following lines:

The faith of common lovers,
Their promises so grave,
Are written on the sand,
And effaced by every wave.
But the love for Gloriosa
Is writ in stars on high,
Vain all efforts to efface it,
Ah, who is he would try.

"I understand it," cried Desira, "whoever loves you must love you forever, how well your admirer knows how to express his affection?" She then embraced Gloriosa, and relieved from their fears that they should not be able to perform their tasks, they sat down together and enjoyed the sight of the sea and the pleasures of conversation.

Queen Dwarfia sent to the foot of the mountain to know what had become of Gloriosa; they found there feathers scattered about and some parts of her dress, and they imagined she had been crushed according to their wishes.

With this thought the Fairies ran to the sea shore; they cried out at sight of the tablet of brass, and were alarmed to see the two princesses, who were enjoying themselves tranquilly on the summit of a rock. They called them. Gloriosa gave them her water of immortal life, and laughed secretly with Desira at the fury of the Fairies.

The Queen did not hear their laughter; she knew that an art superior to her own assisted them, and her rage arose to such a point that she resolved on their total ruin by the last and most cruel of trials.

Desira was condemned to go the next day to the Fair of Time and seek for the bloom of youth, and Gloriosa to go to the Wonderful Forest and catch the hare with silver feet.

Princess Desira was conducted into a great plain, at the end of which was a superb building, all divided into halls and galleries full of shops so superb that there is nothing to be found elsewhere to be compared to them, not excepting those of Paris. At each of these shops there were young and agreeable Fairies, and near them, to aid them, the persons to whom they were most attached.

As soon as Desira appeared, her beauty charmed every body, she took possession of all hearts. The first shop at which she inquired she asked for the Bloom of Youth. No one would tell her where it was to be found, because it was against the rules of Fairyland for any but a Fairy to seek for it. It was their design to punish the mortal who should undertake such a dangerous errand.

The good Fairies told Desira that she had better go back, and not ask any farther for what she was seeking. She was so beautiful that people ran to look at her as she passed. Unfortunately she happened to enter the shop of a wicked Fairy. Scarcely had she asked for the Bloom of Youth for the Queen of the Fairies, than darting a terrible look at her she told her she had the article and would give it to her the next day, and ordered her to go into another room and wait until it was prepared, but they carried her into a dark and terrible place, where she could see nothing. She was filled with fear. "Ah," said she, "amiable friend of Gloriosa, hasten to assist me or I am lost."

He was deaf to her voice, for it was impossible to act in that place as he had done in others. Desira passed on half of the night in torment, she slept the other part, and was awakened by an agreeable girl who came to bring her a little food, which she told her came from the friend of her mistress, the Fairy, who had resolved to help her. She hoped she should be able to relieve her soon, because the Fairy had sent for a wicked ally of hers who was to breathe ugliness into her face and deprive her of all her beauty, she was then to be sent back to the Fairy Queen, that she might serve as a triumph of their vengeance. Princess Desira was in dreadful fear at this threat of losing her beauty. She almost died of terror.

She walked slowly up and down her dark dwelling, when she felt herself seized by the arm. She was led towards a little light, and when she was able to see, she was struck with delight, for she recognized the dear prince who loved her so much, and from whom she had been separated on the eve of her marriage. Her transports and her joy were extreme. "Is it you?" said she, an hundred times. Finally when she was certain of the fact, forgetting all her present misfortunes, "is it you," continued she, "who are the favorite of this unfortunate fairy?" "Do not doubt it," said he, "and we shall owe to this the end of our pains and misfortunes."

He then related to her, that in despair at her being stolen from him, he had gone to find a sage who had informed him where she was, and that he could never recover her except in the kingdom of the Fairies; that he had given him the means to

find her, but that he had been stopped at first by this cruel Fairy, who had taken a fancy to him that following the advice of his friend the sage, he had been attentive to her, and that by his kindness he had become so far master of her mind that he kept all her treasures and was the minister of her wishes, that she had just set out on a journey of six thousand miles, that she would not return for twelve days, and thus he hoped to accomplish their deliverance. He said he was going into her cabinet to take a part of the stone of the ring of Gyges, this Desira should put about herself, and being made invisible by it she could go any where. "Do not forget," said she to him, "the Bloom of Youth, I wish to make use of it and give it to a companion I have with me."

The Prince laughed. "Where are we going?" said she. "To the Fairy Queen's," he replied. "Oh not there," said she, "we shall perish there." "The sage who advises me," pursued he, "told me to carry you back to the last place you came from, if I wished to be sure of my happiness. He has never deceived me." "Very well," said Desira, "let us go then."

The Prince gave her a precious box, in which was the bloom of youth, she rubbed her face immediately with it, forgetting that the stone he had given her made her invisible. She took his arm, and they went in this way through the fair, and arrived thus at the Fairy Queen's palace.

There the Prince took the Gyges stone,—the amiable Desira appeared, and he became invisible to the great regret of the Princess, whose arm he now took, and they went before Dwarsia and her court.

All the Fairies looked at each other in the greatest astonishment at seeing Desira return with the Bloom of Youth, and the Queen rubbing her forehead, exclaimed, "Let her be strictly guarded, our caution is in vain, we must put her to death without ceremony."

This was the decree, Desira trembled as she heard it. Her friend, though invisible, encouraged her all in his power.

But we must return to Gloriosa. She had been conducted to the Forest of Wonders, and this is the reason why she was sent out to pursue the hare with silver feet.

There was once a Fairy Queen who had succeeded naturally to that title. She was handsome, good, and wise, and had several lovers. But as her only desire was to protect virtue, she cared for none of them, and their attentions were all wasted upon her. One of them who loved her best of all, protested to her one day, that if she did not consent to marry him, he would kill himself. She was not much alarmed at this threat, thinking it one of those follies of which the young man would be cured in time. She, however, heard soon after that he had actually thrown himself into the sea.

A sage who had educated this young man, and who was much grieved at his death, made use of such magical power as he possessed, and condemned the Fairy to be a hare for a hundred years, in punishment for her cruelty, unless some great beauty should be willing to expose herself to run after her for ten days in the Forest of Wonders. If any one should be found who would undertake this, and should succeed in catching the hare, she would then resume her first form. She had been transformed in this way for forty years.

At first several beauties had taken the risk of trying this adventure, which promised so much glory, but they were lost, and at the end of ten days nothing was heard of them; so that this ardor was abated, and no beauty had offered herself for a long time. Some persons whom the Fairies wished to destroy had been sent there, and it was in this way that they hoped to rid themselves of Gloriosa, when they conducted her to the Forest of Wonders.

They gave her a trifling quantity of food, for form's sake, and a silken cord, with a slip noose with which to secure the hare, this was her hunting equipage.

She seated herself at the foot of a tree, and when she found herself alone, she cast her eyes around this vast forest, and saw in the deep silence and solitude nothing but despair.

She wished to remain at the edge of the forest, and not go into the midst of it; and that she might

know it again, she marked the place from which she started. But how was she mistaken. One must always wander in this forest, and could never leave it. She perceived in one of the paths the silver footed hare, walking slowly along. She went with her cord in her hand, thinking to secure her; but the hare finding herself pursued, ran, and stopping from time to time, turned her head round towards Gloriosa. They were within sight of each other all day, without Gloriosa being able to reach the hare. The night separated them.

The poor huntress was very tired, and hungry, but she did not know where to look for the little store of food with which she had been provided, and she had nothing but the hard ground to rest upon. She laid herself down sadly under a tree; but it was a long time before she was able to sleep, every thing alarmed her; a shaking leaf made her shudder; her thoughts in this sad state turned towards the friend who had helped her in so many difficulties. She called him several times, and finding that he failed her in this time of great need, she wept bitterly, and cried, "Philo, Philo, you have abandoned me."

She was beginning at last to fall asleep, when she felt some agitation beneath her, and it seemed as if she were lying in the best bed in the world. Her sleep was long without being disturbed. In the morning she was wakened by the songs of a thousand nightingales, and turning her eyes, she perceived herself to be raised two feet above the earth, the grass had grown up under her fair form, and had become a most delicious couch. A large orange tree spread its branches over her, to serve as a tent, and she was covered with its blossoms. All about her the ground was covered with strawberries, and every kind of delicate fruit; she ate of it, and found herself as much satisfied, and as strong as if she had feasted on the best meats. A stream which flowed near by, served to quench her thirst. "Oh kind friend," said she, when she had refreshed herself, "Oh thoughtful friend, how much did I need your help,—I will never murmur again; bestow less upon me, but let me see you."

She would have continued speaking, if she had not perceived the silver footed hare at her feet, quietly sitting and looking at her. She thought she should certainly now be able to catch her, she presented her with one hand some grass, and with the other she held her cord. But the hare ran off with a spring, and when she was at a little distance stopped and looked back. They went on in this manner all day. The night came, and was spent as the former one had been. The waking was like the first; and four days and four nights were passed in this way. At last on the fifth morning Gloriosa on opening her eyes, thought she perceived a light more brilliant than that of day. She saw the eyes of her kind friend; he was approaching her, and saluted her in the most respectful manner.

"It is then you," said she, "if I have not seen you for several days, I have at least received marks of your goodness." "Say rather of my love, Gloriosa," replied he, "my mother suspects that it is I who help you, she has guarded me; I have escaped for a moment by means of a friendly Fairy,—adieu, I came only to encourage you, you will see me this evening, and if fortune favors us, to-morrow we shall be happy.

He went away, and she ran again all day; when night came, she perceived near her a little light, which was enough to make her know her friend.

"Here is my lighted wand," said he, "place it before you, and go, without being alarmed, wherever it will lead you. When it stops, you will find a large heap of dried leaves, put fire to them, enter the place you will see, and if you see there the remains of any animal, burn it. Our friends, the Stars, will do the rest,—Farewell."

Gloriosa would have been glad to receive more particular directions, but seeing there was no remedy, she placed the wand before her, and it directed her the way to go. She walked nearly two hours, and at last she perceived a large heap of dried leaves, to which she did not fail to set fire. The light was soon so great, that she could perceive a somewhat high mountain, in which she discovered an opening, half hidden by bushes. She pushed them away with her wand, and entered a dark place, but shortly after she found herself in a large hall,

of an admirable style of building, brilliantly lighted. But that which most astonished her was to see the skins of several wild and terrible animals, hung on golden hooks; at first she thought they were the living animals. She turned away her eyes in horror, and stopped them in the middle of the hall, where there was a beautiful palm tree, and on one of the branches hung the skin of the silver footed hare.

Gloriosa was delighted to see it, and taking it with her wand, she carried it quickly to the fire she had lighted at the entrance of the cavern. It was consumed in a moment, and returning joyfully into the hall, she went forward into several magnificent chambers. She stopped in one where she saw several little beds, made up on Persian carpets, and one more beautiful than the rest under a canopy of cloth of gold. But she had not leisure to look long at what seemed to her so singular, she heard loud peals of laughter, and people speaking very loud.

Gloriosa turned to the side whence the noise proceeded. She entered a wonderful place where there were fifteen young girls of a marvelous

beauty.

She did not surprise them less than she was surprised. The beauty of her person charmed them all. An attentive silence succeeded to their cries of admiration. But one of these fair creatures, and the most beautiful of all, advanced with a gay and smiling air toward our Princess. "You are my

deliverer," said she, "I cannot doubt it; no one enters here who has not been clothed in the skin of one of those animals, you saw at the entrance of the cave. It has been the fate of all these persons whom you see near me. After ten days useless hunting to take me, they were changed into such animals during the day, and at night we resume our human forms, and you, charming Princess, if you had not delivered me, would have been changed into a white rabbit." "A white rabbit," cried Gloriosa; "Ah madam, it is much better that I have preserved my ordinary form, and that such a wonderful person as you are should be no longer a hare." "You restore us all our liberty," replied the Fairy, "let us pass the rest of the night gaily, and tomorrow we will go to the palace, to fill all the court with wonder."

It is impossible to describe the gayety with which this abode resounded; and the pleasure all these people felt at being relieved from the enchantment under which they had been held. They had all been of the same age when they began their chase in the Forest of Wonders; and the oldest was not twenty.

The Fairy advised them all to retire to rest, telling them that late hours were very injurious to the growth of young folks; but before they went to sleep, Gloriosa, at the request of the young girls, had told her story in the most simple and touching

words; and had interested the Fairy in her fate, and that of her friend Desira.

The next day they all set forth towards the palace, wishing to give an agreeable surprise to the Fairies. They quitted without regret the Forest of Wonders, and arrived without any noise at the palace. When they were near the inner court, they heard a thousand harmonious sounds, making fine music. "Here is some fête," said they, "we have arrived in good time." They advanced, and found the court filled with an innumerable crowd.

The Fairy made her way through it, and passed in with her company. The first who knew her shouted aloud, and soon the subject of such great joy was discovered. But as she advanced, she perceived a singular sight. A young girl of the most exquisite beauty was fastened to a stake, where apparently she was about to be burned.

Gloriosa uttered a piercing cry, for she knew that the girl was Desira, but she was greatly surprised when at the same moment Desira disappeared, and a handsome young man stood in her place. At this sight Gloriosa again uttered a shriek, and without heeding any thing, rushed forward to embrace him, saying, again and again, "he is my brother."

It was indeed her brother, who was the fortunate lover of Desira, and who fearing she was about to be put to death, had just given her the stone of Gyges, to release her from the cruelty of Queen

Dwarfia, and by this means he was himself discovered.

The brother and sister gave each other a hundred marks of their affection. The invisible Desira mingled hers with them, and her voice was heard, though her form did not appear; while all the Fairies in unparalleled astonishment gave in a thousand ways striking marks of their joy, at seeing again their virtuous Queen. The good Fairies came to throw themselves at her feet, and kiss her hands and her garments. They wept, they could not speak. The bad Fairies, or the followers of Dwarfia, also pretended to be glad to see her, and policy gave an air of sincerity to their false demonstrations.

Dwarfia herself in despair at the return of the rightful and virtuous Queen, constrained her feelings with an art which no one else could have employed. She came forward immediately to yield her power to the true Queen, who with a grave and majestic air asked "how the young girl she had just seen, had merited such a punishment, and how long it was since they had practiced celebrating such a cruel death with fêtes and sports?" Dwarfia excused herself very ill, and the Queen impatiently listened, when the lover of Desira said, "they were about to punish this Princess, because she is too amiable. And for the same reason have they tormented the Princess my sister. They are both from early youth beautiful, as you now see them." He

then begged Desira to cover up the Gyges ring, she did so, and became visible; every one was charmed as they saw her. "They are beautiful," continued the Prince, "they have a thousand virtues which they did not receive from the Fairies, here is why they envy and persecute them."

The Prince was silent. The Queen turned towards the company with the most benignant air. "I demand," said she, "that these three persons may be given up to me, they shall have the most happy fortune which mortals can enjoy. I owe enough to Gloriosa, and I will reward what she has done for me, with the most enduring happiness."

"You will reign madam," continued she, turning to Dwarfia, "this empire is vast enough for you and for me. Go to the beautiful islands which belong to you. Leave me your son, I associate him with me in my power; and it is my wish that he should be united to Gloriosa; this union will reconcile us all."

Dwarfia was enraged at every thing the Queen ordered, but where was the help for it? She was not the strongest; she was forced to obey. She was about to do so, with no very good grace, when Philo appeared, followed by a gallant train of youths who formed his court. He came to render his homage to the Queen, and congratulate her on her return. But as he passed along, he fixed his eyes on Gloriosa, and showed her by his affectionate looks where he felt his duty lay.

The Queen embraced him, and presented him to Gloriosa, begging him to receive her from her hand. It need not be asked whether he obeyed this with pleasure.

The two marriages were celebrated the same day. They were so happy that they are said to be the only couple who ever gained the golden vine; and those, whose happiness has since been spoken of, were but mere shadows of the bliss of these.

Thus virtue triumphs over the misfortunes which arise in its way; envy and jealousy only serve to make it shine brighter; and in the end it is always

happy.

Gloriosa and Desira were always good and fair. Gloriosa had a son named Glorio, who inherited all the beauty and grace of his father and mother,—and when seated in her arms, sporting with the cup which once held the Water of Immortality, the group was so fair, that more than one artist sought for the honor of attempting to imitate it in a picture.



## PRINCE PERINET,

OR

## THE PORCELAIN ISLAND.

Almidor, was king of a certain part of the Indies, he had a wife who was possessed of every charm and grace and virtue which was ever seen in woman before or since her time. After they had been sometime married, a little son was born to them, but as if the happiness of the king was too great for a mortal, very soon after the birth of his son his wife died.

The poor king could not be comforted. He shut himself up day and night with his little boy and wept for the loss of his wife. Never had there been such a woman, never was such grief known as that of the king.

Some years passed in this manner, the little prince arrived at the age of six years. He was named Perinet, and the king educated him with the greatest care and tenderness. One day when they were walking on the sea-shore in a delicious garden, watered by numerous refreshing streams, they suddenly saw rise on the surface of the sea (though it was calm every where else, and there was not the least breath of wind) they saw, I say, fire floating with incredible swiftness on the waves, and the

fiery spot increased so fast, that when it stopped near the shore, it seem a burning mountain.

This prodigy was regarded with astonishment mingled with admiration, but greater was the surprise of the beholders, when they saw issue from the midst of these flames, a little boat drawn by two swans whiter than snow, in which was seated a lady of dazzling beauty. When the boat was within the sound of a voice, this beautiful person addressed the king and said to him, "I am the fairy Manipa, I have always taken an interest in the princes of your family, a misfortune threatens you, you can however prevent it, you must be separated from your son; before he has attained his fifteenth year he will be taken from you in your own dominions. Take in this matter the part that prudence shall dictate to you." She disappeared in a moment and left all the court in as great sorrow as if the prediction had already taken effect.

Almidor retired overcome with sadness, and thought of nothing but seeking some method of averting such a misfortune. He at last concluded that his sister, who was queen of the Fairies, was alone able to secure him from it, and without further deliberation he carried his dear Perinet to the palace of that princess. She received both with all the tenderness and friendship possible, and when the king had informed her of the reasons which obliged him to place such a precious deposit in her hands. "I accept," said she, "with all my heart

the trust you place in me, I will do every thing in my power for my dear nephew, and I promise you, while he is in my kingdom nothing shall happen to him which can cost you the least pain. Almidor, encouraged by the kindness of his sister, returned quite satisfied.

The queen of the Fairies was now wholly occupied with procuring for her nephew amusements suitable to his age. She had no children—and she soon loved him as if he had been her own son. But while she exhausted the resources of her art to make the days of the young prince pass pleasantly, she was still more attentive to give him an education worthy of his birth. Skillful masters were constantly employed to teach him music and dancing, and all those exercises which form the mind and body—in a word she taught him all that a king ought to know.

Perinet was particularly fond of the amusement of hunting, but he also was happy on his return from the chase to find pleasant society ready to meet him. The queen had in her court some of the most beautiful young ladies in the world, among them was a young relative of her own, named Ticia, whom she thought Perinet might fancy, but for some reason, which historians have not put down in their books, Perinet did not take much pleasure in the society of this young lady. She was so much vexed at his coldness, that she determined

since she could not make him love her, she would punish him for what she thought a crime.

She had a friend named Nortandoso, prince of the Blue islands, who was one of the greatest magicians of his time. Ticia paid him a visit, and after she had told him that Prince Perinet treated her with scorn he promised to help her to revenge herself on him.

It was necessary in the first place to induce the prince to go out of the fairy's kingdom, because he could suffer no injury while in her dominions and he was guarded with great attention. Nortandoso however thought he could overcome all difficulties. The prince often went hunting, and one day when he was pursuing a hare, an animal more singular and terrible than can be described presented itself before him. It was large as a wild boar, it had three heads as large as that of an ox, six serpents who made a dreadful hissing, enough to frighten the most resolute, formed his six tails. This dreadful beast fell upon the dogs, and devoured them all in a moment. A mortal terror seized all the people who were about the prince and they abandoned him. But he, consulting only his own courage, boldly approached the monster, and shot a javelin at him with a sure hand. The monster, though invulnerable, immediately took flight Perinet did not lose sight of him, but pursued him, delighted at having found an occasion worthy of his valor.

The dreadful animal would undoubtedly have led him out of the kingdom of his aunt into the place where the enchanter was awaiting him, but another wonder attracted his attention just as he reached the borders. He perceived near a castle in a cinnamon grove several ladies walking. There was one to whom the others appeared to pay the greatest respect, it was she who fixed his attention, and whose extreme beauty inspired him with the most profound admiration. He approached this agreeable group. The princess Zanzinette (for it was her on whom his attention had been fixed) looked at the prince with the greatest astonishment. They conversed together and were mutually pleased, and before they separated they agreed to meet again the next day at the same spot.

They met several times and were very happy in each other's society. But on returning one day from visiting the young lady, the queen of Fairies came to announce to him that his father Almidor was dangerously ill, and that he wished to have the consolation of embracing his son before his death. The prince, in great affliction, wished to set off immediately. The fairy gave him a liquor, the effect of which was so wonderful that Almidor had no sooner made use of it, than his health was surprisingly restored. The joy of seeing his son contributed not a little to his recovery.

He was on the point of sending back this dear son, that he might escape the misfortune with which he had been threatened, but it was so little time before he would complete his fifteenth year that he could not resolve to part with him. He thought it would be sufficient to watch him with the greatest care. At last the birth-day of the prince came, and the king delighted to see the end of the troubles which had been predicted, was desirous to celebrate such a happy event. He gave the most brilliant fête upon the sea which was ever known.

The amusements had not finished when Prince Perinet under pretence of fishing, but in fact, to gain a moment of solitude in which he might think at liberty upon his dear Zanzinette, stepped by himself into a little boat. He had already caught several fish, without paying much attention to what he was doing, when he perceived one of an extraordinary form. Its scales were blue and gold, and its eyes resembled two carbuncles. This fish came and played about the hook but did not bite at it, the prince would have given every thing in the world to obtain it. He would have delighted greatly to present it to Zanzinette. He already resolved to send a special messenger to bear it to her. But the beautiful fish went away as fast as he approached him, and carried him so far from the shore that he lost sight of all his people, who were themselves busily enjoying the sports of the occa-He then felt his boat sinking. It was necessary to be as courageous as Prince Perinet not to be alarmed at this accident, but he never

knew fear. He began to swim, resolved to gain the shore. But what was his surprise when he saw a man of a horrible form approaching him mounted on a great toad. This terrible man seized him, and placed him before him, on the saddle, without speaking a single word, and immediately the toad began to swim with great swiftness. In a few moments they arrived at an island, which seemed inhabited only by terrible beasts. The guard of it was intrusted to two lions, two bears, two elephants and four tigers. The master of the toad after having muttered a few words between his teeth, put his hand on the head of the prince, who at the same moment was changed into a tea-pot. It may easily be conceived that this villainous large gentleman was the prince of the Blue island, who to please Ticia, and trouble the prince, had just given this form to Perinet.

The melancholy tea-pot was immediately left on the island by Nortandoso, who flew off to Ticia to inform her of what he had been doing. He advanced some steps without meeting any thing, but entering a little grove he met on his way, he heard voices which convinced him that the place was inhabited. Society is a comfort when one is in trouble. The prince went on his way, in hope of meeting a friend, but nothing could equal his surprise when he perceived porcelain jars, cups and saucers, pitchers and bowls talking together. As he was advancing to hear what such personages

could have to say, he was perceived by all the porcelains who came forward to receive him. They inquired of the tea-pot what had reduced him to this condition, and he told them he had been seized at sea by a great ugly man mounted on a toad, who had taken him with him and metamorphosed him in the manner they saw, as soon as they reached the island. When he had described his persecutor, a sugar bowl spoke and informed him that his enemy was Nortandoso, a genius of the largest power, who was passionately fond of china ware and who transformed into it every one who had the misfortune to displease him.

Meantime Almidor not finding his son return from fishing felt all the uneasiness and distress possible, and all the court shared in his grief. The good king sent every body out on the search, and he himself ran first one way and then another, but all his care was in vain and he had recourse to his sister. Though she had undoubtedly great power, it did not extend to delivering the prince from his present condition. She promised him however to help him all she could. She immediately transported herself to the Blue island, or rather to the Porcelain island (it bore both names.) Notwithstanding her great knowledge she would never have recognized the unfortunate Perinet if the beautiful yellow tea-pot had not said in a low tone to her "I am your unfortunate nephew, who suffers more than was ever before endured, it is not the state to which

I am reduced which afflicts me most, but I am separated from the fair Zanzinette, and without her I cannot live."

The queen was distressed to see the finest prince upon earth reduced to this state. She promised to exert her art to the utmost to help him. Perinet begged her above all things to bring him every day news of Zanzinette. She granted him this consolation, and to bring it about she presented him with a little spaniel dog of a brown and white color whom she ordered to report to the prince every moment just what Zanzinette was doing. This little dog was the prettiest creature which had ever been seen up to that time, and all the porcelains were charmed with him. They could not endure to be a moment without playing with him. Perinet was but too happy in being able to hear every moment from his fair lady.

After the Fairy had made him such a fine present, she gave three strokes of her wand, and a palace rose in the midst of a garden. Both palace and garden were worthy of the Fairy Queen. The porcelains of the island had orders not to leave the prince, and to try to amuse him in every way possible, and in order to make them take more interest in him, the Fairy told them that he was destined to put an end to their misfortunes. All the porcelains then formed themselves into a procession, and followed the tea-pot, who gravely marching at their head, conducted them into the new palace. It was

made of white porcelain embellished with that antique blue which begins to be so rare and precious. The porcelains found there exactly as many apartments as were necessary. The suite selected by the prince, was formed of rubies, the floor was of emeralds, his cabinet was studded with diamonds, and ornamented with sapphires. This room was the apartment where they all met and occupied themselves only with the amusement of Perinet, whose whole thoughts however were devoted to his dear Zanzinette.

The fairy after having arranged this beautiful establishment, came to find Almidor, and told him every thing that had happened. "There is no resource in your misfortunes," said she, "no other means to end them, but to find some entirely faultless young woman, who is willing to undertake the deliverance of the prince and who will adventure herself alone in a boat upon the sea. If she is pure and has freed herself from every wrong habit, the boat will go of itself without any conductor to the place where the prince is confined. Take no further care than to find such a young person. It will be she who will restore your son to his original beautiful form.

All the fathers and mothers most zealous in the service of the king, came immediately to offer their daughters. Not a moment was lost, and the one who came first embarked immediately. But no sooner did the boat feel the weight of the girl

than it returned directly into the port. More than a hundred suffered this fate the first day. Whether the wind was not favorable, or they had some little fault which they did not know themselves, so it happened that they all returned directly to the place whence they started.

The king in despair at finding that there was not one entirely faultless young girl in a kingdom as large as his had recourse again to his sister. After she had searched dilligently in her old books, she informed Almidor that the Princess Zanzinette could alone deliver the Prince. At that very moment the king sent to ask of Queen Mindamira the Princess Zanzinette for his son Prince Perinet, Mindamira had long wished for this alliance, but she had desired it still more since her daughter had confided to her the pleasure she took in the society of the prince. She went immediately to seek Zanzinette. for she had retired into a country house where she gave herself up to her grief for the loss of the prince. She informed her of the subject of her visit, and the intention she had of conducting her immediately to Almidor. The joy of the princess cannot be expressed. She followed her mother into the dominions of the king, who received her as the deliverer of his son. Without losing a single moment she entered the vessel, which had been so fatal to other beauties. All the court and the city were assembled on the shore, but all the spectators were agitated with different sentiments. Every

body watched with the deepest interest this great event, when they saw the sails unfurl of themselves and the vessel went forward with such great rapidity that it was out of sight in a moment.

The princess felt a joy which cannot be described. She was going to see her lover again, she alone of all the people in the world could release him from the unfortunate fate he was suffering, and she could give him at the same time the strongest proof of her affection. It was night when the vessel went into the harbor of the fatal island. but Zanzinette immediately stepped out, her impatience was so great. Her foot had hardly touched the shore, than she saw advancing toward her a little opal car, the wheels of which were of topaz. It was drawn by six glowworms. A child, smiling and beautiful as the morning, conducted the car. As soon as he perceived the princess, he stepped out, went to meet her, and taking her by the hand assisted her to ascend the car. It was immediately in motion and went forward with such rapidity that she had not time to make the least reflection on what was going on. In a moment she arrived in front of a superb palace, and it was there that her beautiful carriage stopped short.

This mansion was distinguished by every thing most singular and desirable. It was built of red and blue butterflies' wings, and the furniture was made of the most beautiful spider webs embroidered with gold. As soon as Zanzinette had entered, she

ran every where, calling "Perinet, my dear Perinet," for she imagined this was the place where she was to find him. When she had passed through several rooms, she was stopped by a woman still smaller than the child who had served her for a coachman. This little dwarf called out to her, "stop fair Zanzinette, listen to me, you seek Perinet in vain. My father, King of the Blue Island and master of this kingdom, has ordered me to come and meet you to assure you from him of the most violent love he has for you. The fear of displeasing you prevents him from appearing before you, after the cheat he has practiced upon you. For it is he who just took the form of a child, to bring you here, and prevent you from going to the palace of porcelains. The princess at this felt the most violent grief. She could not restrain her feelings, and in her anger, she said every thing which love and despair could dictate, after which she fainted in the arms of the dwarf, who laid her upon a magnificent bed.

Nortandoso was as much afflicted as he could be at any thing, at the state to which his cruelty had reduced Zanzinette. He reproached himself and was even on the point of carrying the princess to the place where he found her, but he remembered the good grace with which she left her boat, and the wonderful beauty with which he had been dazzled at the first sight of her, for unfortunately for Zanzinette he was walking on the sea at the time she embarked to deliver Perinet. After he had made all these reflections he decided that he could

not give up a person who appeared so beautiful, and to whom he had become so attached.

The queen, his daughter, did every thing in her power to recover Zanzinette from her fainting fit. She was as good and gentle, as her father was cruel and wicked. "Fair Zanzinette," said she, "moderate your grief, stop your tears, my father is the most inconstant of men, he often looks with indifference in the evening at what he has loved desperately in the morning. If however he persists in his evil designs, I will assist you depend upon me." But nothing could console Zanzinette, she opened her lips only to say "Let me die, since I cannot see Perinet."

She passed several days in this cruel state. Nortandoso had the discretion not to present himself before her for fear of irritating her. As for the dwarf, she was so touched with the sorrow of the princess, that she promised to take her out of her father's hands, provided she would check in some measure the violence of her grief. Zanzinette saw that she spoke with sincerity, and she moderated her tears and groans. They agreed together that she should permit Nortandoso to pay her a visit, and that she should make every effort not to let him see her aversion to him. The Prince of the Blue Island was transported at the kindness of the Princess. Every day he contrived the most magnificent festivals and amusements, and was beginning to entertain great hopes that the princess would at last receive him with favor, when he was called away

to settle some difficulties which had arisen in a distant part of his kingdom. His daughter took advantage of this absence to keep her promise to Zanzinette.

Before separating from the Princess, she made her a present of an entirely blue robe, which covered her from head to foot. This disguise, though simple, assisted her flight, for all the inhabitants of the Blue Island were dressed in that color. She added to this gift the present of a little white wand, which would conduct her in a straight line to the porcelain palace. She conjured her to trust herself to it entirely, and embracing her tenderly, said, "I hope your journey will be as fortunate as I desire it to be." Zanzinette, without knowing where she was going, followed exactly the wand, which always preceded her at a little distance. She walked for six months, not without suffering every kind of fatigue, and sometimes almost falling into despair of ever finding her lover. At last she one day perceived a castle, on which the sun's rays fell directly. It was so brilliant that her eyes could not bear the splendor of it. This wonder redoubled her curiosity. When she was at a certain distance, her astonishment increased. Porcelain vessels of every kind came to meet her; two vases advanced, offering their hands or arms, two cups held up her dress, a troop of mugs and pitchers preceded, followed and paid their respects to her. In the midst of the honors she was receiving, a yellow tea-pot broke

through the crowd by which she was surrounded, and stopping before her, said to her in a tone of the deepest affection, "It is then you, my dearest Zanzinette, who are willing to see Perinet in the dread-

ful state to which he is reduced."

She could not mistake the form of her dear friend, she took him in her arms with transports of joy. The Prince was ashamed to appear before his mistress in such a ridiculous form, he dared not speak a single word, and only allowed his sighs to be heard. But the princess assured him he was equally dear to her under whatever form. This assurance encouraged the tea-pot, and made him say every thing which love and gratitude could dictate.

When they reached the palace, the princess went over it to admire its magnificence, and then went to repose herself in the apartment of Prince Perinet. It was there that the porcelains pressed around her. making her the most polite and agreeable compliments. They told her how the little Spaniel had warned them of all her proceedings, and how Prince Perinet had been distressed at the fatigue and anxiety she had suffered. While this conversation was going on, the little dog ran in so fast that he was near overturning ten or a dozen of the vases and pitchers. After having taken breath, he informed the company that Nortandoso was on the palace steps, and that he would infallibly enter. Since he had discovered the loss of the Princess, he had done nothing but search for her. This news caused the greatest alarm. The little Spaniel ordered silence, and addressing the tea-pot, "Prince," said he, "it depends on you to secure your happiness, the enchanter will soon appear in the palace, he can only be wounded on the top of his head. Remember that an opportunity lost can never be regained." At these words

the little dog disappeared.

It may easily be imagined that his departure afflicted all the assembly, for they had no resource but in the skill and wisdom of the Spaniel. A thousand things were proposed ,when Zanzinette advised that the tea-pot, whose courage and resolution she knew, should be placed on the cornice over the door of the room into which Nortandoso must enter, and that he should select the right time, and fall straight down upon the magician's head. porcelains approved the plan, and Zanzinette took the tea-pot and placed him in the middle of the cornice, after which all the different articles of porcelain placed themselves around her, awaiting the

result in the greatest anxiety.

Scarcely had they so arranged themselves when they heard the Prince of the Blue Island on the stairs. He went from room to room in search of Zanzinette. At last he arrived at the one where she was, but scarcely had he reached the door step, when the tea-pot threw himself on the top of his head, from there he fell to the ground and broke into a thousand pieces. Zanzinette at this sight shrieked and fainted, but Perinet, who had now recovered his own fine form, succeeded easily in restoring her. All the other porcelains at the same moment became what they were before their metamorphosis. Never was seen such a number of beautiful men and women, for their charms yielded to nothing but those of Zanzinette and Perinet. These two friends imagined of course that Nortandoso was dead, but what was their surprise at seeing him changed into a porcelain Pagoda. This Pagoda had not like them the power to speak and

move, it had only a certain motion of the top which still threatened them.

It is needless to dwell on the delights of the Prince and Princess, and all those persons who were released from their enchantment. After a fine repast, which they found provided for them in one of the apartments, they all walked out into the park. Here new wonders awaited them. A most remarkable car, drawn by swallows, made its appearance. The Queen of the Fairies and the little dwarf They handed Zanzinette and alighted from it. Perinet into the car. Another car soon appeared, drawn by six wild ducks, into which all the Princes and Princesses were comfortably stowed.

It may easily be imagined that they all left the island without regret. The old giant Pagoda was forced to remain, and is probably nodding his head there to this day. They all soon arrived at the palace of King Almidor, where they were joyfully received. Zanzinette and Perinet were immediately united in marriage, and after having celebrated the occasion with the most varied and magnificent festivals, the other Princes and Princesses returned to their several homes, and all lived happy and were as good as they could be. The wicked Ticia, in some of her travels arrived at the Blue Island, and was immediately changed there to a Pagoda, for the Fairy who had worked all these wonders, had decreed that this should be the fate of all the evil disposed and bad people who arrived in that island.













